App. F. IX-4

Previous References.

1944 ( D & C. )

File No. 392-44

Serial Nos. 1-24

Later References.
Ind. Dep. 61/53-54.

# GENERAL AND REVENUE SECRETARIAT

Serial Nos. Twenty-four only.

Part B for March 1954.

SUBJECT

Re: Sisal fibre industry.

No. D. 5756. Dt 28-11-19

To

The Director of Industries & Commerce
in Mysore, Bangalore

Q-217

WD 015467—GPB—25,000—12-9-51

C. V. Rajanna.
29/7/52

Sisal fibre machinery

[S. F. 69]

Continuation Sheet. Dfe File No. / Current No. 392/agy of 4038, 4388.

D487 Letter No. E.3182/G.B. dated 28/11/44 A7 from the T.C. forwarding literature re sisal fibre machinery.

1) The enquiry has been referred to the T.C. by the G.B. & Thro' the High Commr's Office. The A & T Br requested D.S.P.C. will be consulted to intimate if the subject has been dealt with there. for perusal & orders.

Dfe 28/11/44 — Dy h 26/12

(A & T Branch)

2) The Subject as such is not being dealt with in the Fors Section of A & T Br.

Dfe 29/11 — Dy Asst Secy 2nd C branch wle — CA 31/1

CAM 30/11

3) The file may be sent to D.S.P.C for any remarks. Dfe 30/11

4.0 NO 524 44-45 7.2.45 Refer if any

Dfe 1/2/45 — Secy S.P.C wle — Dfe 2/2/45

4) There are no references in the subject here.

Dfe 12/3 — Asst Secy Dev wle — 31 — Dy h 25/3/45

5) Dfe 27/3

6) It is not clear from which Dept the enquiry emanated. If Agri are Dy Dfe

6 MAR 45 — 15093

WD 8826—GPB—25,000—15-9-44

130

Social Fibre Machinery

Continuation Sheet. Dft File No. 394 cy Current No. of 4038, 4308 Page.

to his Q & I ask the Agency to indicate the source of their request for Penal orders.

Dep Secy 11 To 587 8/4/45

I think Mr. Cr. Darby has mentioned some time ago that he had had some proposals in this matter. This is not from Agriculture & I do not think it is the case any rep. in the matter

Cr 30/3

To 30/3

13 For Remarks.

War Secy

Ik 2/4. 14 The War Secn has no information on the subject.

Dft 3/4 (A+F Branch) for remarks

3/4/45 15

The A+F Branch [F+ Section] has no information on this subject. Vide para 3 above.

Agriculture Section W/C

2 ... 18/4 16

The Agriculture Branch has no information on this Subject

Mr Shivraj has been seen by Mr Cr 18/4

Ik Cr To 5.5.45. 18/5

Dep Secy 17 Asst Secy Dft. WC 17/5

Ik 18 for orders. Refer Para 12

Dep Secy To

4636 A7

Ik 22/3

Dft

C. F. 74.]

Sisal fibre machinery

D/f 392/ey 4308, 4/41

**Routine Notes.**

WD 07111—S/B.—50,000—29-7-44

[To be used only for notes, requisitions, etc., not intended for permanent record.]

Pg Reference may be taken as in form 10

20

Dft letter nubr

Dy 29/5

21 Dft 16/us

D 8496 D/ 21-6-us

To Deputy Secy to G. of I.

Invite reference to the letter D/ 28-11-us from T.C. in London and request him to intimate from which dept of this Govt the enquiries were emanated.

Sec A 12/6

Letter No. 360-ey/us- dated 13/7/us from the Asst Agri Adviser to G of I forwarding copy of letter D/ 28-11-us from T.C.

1-24

22 Dft letter nubr

Dy 2/8

D 1260 D/ 25-8-us

To Asst Agri production Adviser Delhi

Forwarded copy of the letter D/ 28-11-us from T.C. in London and requested him to furnish the information.

Sec A 28/8

Letter dated 17/11/us from Major C.B. oakley Kadakola requesting to be informed be given Views whether this Govt is interested in the development of Sisal fibre industry—

" The letter is for Perusal

Reply for the G of I is still awaited

N.B.— *Should routine notes be written on small slips, the notes must be copied, or slips pasted on this form.*

Dr Dev & Dr who is incharge of College

C. F. 74.] Sisal fibre industry

DA 39; Agr, 1/208, 49, 3603

**Routine Note.**

To be used only for notes, requisitions, etc., not intended for permanent record.

DK

industries may perhaps investigate this
& submit a definite report — for
the development of sisal fibre industry —
in the State. He may perhaps also
inform Govt. the availability of such
plants in other districts also where
plants appear to grow in all soils
& if this is approved, may orders
will be communicated of this Govt.
for orders

DK — A report may be called for (Engg Circ)
23/11/45 from the Dir DHC.

Dev Secy

DK
23/11/45

Yes. Meanwhile Dr. Walker's letter may be asked & he may be told the matter is under consideration

Ce
1/XII

DK
3/12

D.O. letter prepared

DK
4/12/45

DK
6/12/45

D. 4544 A. 10-12-45

To

Mr. J. B. Walker

Intimation that it is under consideration.

D. 4545 A 10 12 45

Sent to Dir, DHC.

ENTRY SECTION
8 DEC. 1945

N.B. - Should routine notes be written on small slips, the notes must be copied, or slips pasted on this form.

Letter no 35-133/cs 6 dated 17-3 47
from the Director of Ind stating that in
question of appointing an Adviser use be
deferred & the Govt invited to furnish
a Scheme with estimate for starting
Cus industry on the State

2) The Govt of Ind was requested
on 10.12.1946 to furnish his
remarks on availability of Soil
fibre plants & prospects of establishing Cus industry
3) It is stated that there are
no large plantations The Director
suggests that Govt may be
requested to furnish a Comprehensive
Scheme for raising of plantations
also starting Cus industry preferably
in Malnad parts

3) The question of the appointment
of Mr J.K. Sircar as an Adviser is
dealt with separately vide Letter file
Functional Specialist It seems that
the Deptt of Agri has been doing
some work for growing & evaluating
various fibres & that it is too
premature to appoint Mr Sircar as

Sisal fibre [illegible]

[illegible]

a consultant. This view is now shared by the Dir & DDr. & he suggests that this question may be deferred for the present: & this is for orders & a reply to Mr. Scican may perhaps be necessary.

The papers of the Dir & DL are

Vide folios 29 ante for orders

Rept. folio 26.

5/4/47

Dear Secy 7/4

The reply of the Secretariat must be awaited. Should, as suggested by Mr. Darby, may be requested to furnish a comprehensive scheme for the consideration of Govt.

(Minister's Init.) 9/4

Mr. Mr. Corbet, when we have this, we may be thanks for his offer & inform what his comments may be required at present.

(Minister's Init.) 9/4

OFFICE OF THE MINISTER FOR A[illegible]TURE AND [illegible]
[illegible]047
7660

A letter of December 1946 is being replied now. This may be [illegible] 11/4

Secl Ftr in subj

4078.1

Ofc 392/44

37 Two offl letters dated

Affer cone, a copy of 2 offs sent to Rly. Secy are be placed in the Cubbon file & reference to the Secretl (as the same is not dealt with here) for further action as per order of the Secy in the Cubbon file.

SECY DEV DEPT
12 APR. 1947
GOVT. OF MYS.

12/4(4)

DW Secy 12/4

Secy

Ce 12/4

12/4

✓

40 Major Oakley & Mr. Walker saw me today. A note on the subject given to me by Major Oakley is placed with Mr. He has promised to send his proposals as early as possible. Await

Ce 22/4 22/4

send to Oakley Sir

Letter dated 24.4.47 from J. Rens Oakley Duncan & Co Ltd, Okaliperuwa Branch furnishing information in regard to Sinhalese Plantations in Sinharaja & working hours and Defaults

Letter dated 30/4/47 from Mr. J.T. Walker Oakley Duncan & Co Ltd Yatiyanthota to be sent down by Post & Bag to enable Chairman to deal with matter & forwarding an extract Letter of 9.5.47 from Mr. Oakley Duncan & Co. for a Scheme policy by Mr. Dunn Adviser on Rope Cobbles to 3 & 9. orders of Hon Sec on the file

Ack. & say that the matter is under consideration their decision of Govt will be intimated as soon as possible.

(Sgd) C.E.
1/5/47,
Acknowledged on 7/5/47.

The letter of 24.4.47 of major C.B. Oakley is for perusal. He says that his Agava Sisalana nurseries in Sinharaja near Kadakola, Mgs Rly Station have to be removed to some other area during the South West monsoon as the lands have been washed out. He says that their & are great possibilities of developing this industry that in private interests - will not take readily to this as pretty large

Sisal fibre industry including plantations

General and Revenue Secretariat — File No. 392 of 1944. — [App. F. III-2

Serial No.

5279, 5409, 5471, 58

time would be taken for the plantations to mature & therefore suggests that this may be taken up somewhere else under Govt management with the running of major Railway as the nucleus of the show. If it is decided that the rearing of the plantations should be taken up by the Agricultural Dept it is perhaps the best agency in which case the matter to may have to be considered by the General Secrett. Re. the planting of fibre industry no definite scheme has been given.

Submitted for orders

Rajan Para 40.

12/5/45 (The Scheme for putting up the plantation need today is also for perusal.)

13/5/45 The Director of Agriculture may perhaps be consulted also — the letter dated 26.4.45 from — Major C. Boakley Dev Secy) — Regs

SECY. DEV. 15 MAY 19 GOVT. OF INDIA

NOTE—Contn. Sheet.

Serial No.

46 On 14-9-1944 the Government of India wrote to the High Commissioner for India in London stating that a scheme for establishing a plantation of 5000 acres of sisal in Mysore State was under consideration for the supply of raw materials for ropes required for defence purposes and requesting that plans for the lay-out of the plantation and details of the machinery required and estimates of cost, etc., may be obtained from Messrs: Robey & Co., Lincoln, England, who are specialists in the line.* This enquiry was passed on by the High Commissioner to our Trade Commissioner in London, who obtained the information required and sent it to the Government of India on 28-11-1944. He also sent us at the same time a copy of the correspondence etc.As no reference in the matter was traceable in the Secretariat, the Deputy Secretary to the Government of India, Department of Education, Health & Lands, who had initiated the correspondence with the High Commissioner was requested to intimate from which department of the Mysore Government the enquiry was emanated. He replied on 13-7-1945 that the Trade Commissioner's letter of 28-11-1944 did not appear to have been received in his department and asking for a copy. This was sent on 25-8-1945. But till now no reply has been received.

*7

47 Meanwhile, on 17-11-1945 one Mr.J.F.Walke wrote to the Dewan enquiring if the Government were interested in the development of the sisal fibre industry and if so, an agreement could be arrived at by which the young plants of Agave sisalana, which were in the Sinduvalli Farm, Kadakola, belonging to Major C.B. Oakley, could be used for the purpose.* On 10-12-1945 the opinion of the Director of Industries and Commerce was asked on the proposal.

*11

48 On 17-6-1946, Mr.J.K.Sircar, Ex-Fibre Development Officer to the Government of India wrote to the Dewan stating that when he visited the Mysore state in - January 1945 he discussed the question of the fibre industry with the Directors of Agriculture and Industries and Commerce and that the latter (Mr.B.G.A.Mudaliar) asked him to prepare a scheme for sisal hemp, but in view of his official position he could not do so then. Now that he was free he sought employment either as an Adviser or a Consultant. He thought that there was -

Serial No.

great scope for the development of the industry in Mysore. The Director of Agriculture and the Director of Industries and Commerce were consulted on this application. The Director of Agriculture replied that the Economic Botanist was doing work on the growing and evaluation of various fibres and after some progress had been made the question of appointing an expert may be considered.

49 On 17-3-1947 the Director of Industries and Commerce reported on both the points referred to him: He said he had discussed the matter with Major Oakley and they had come to the following conclusions:-

(1) To establish the industry on a large scale it is necessary, in the first instance, to rear large plantations of Agave or Aloe. According to the opinions of Lieut: Berkley Hill, Fibre Expert to the Government of India, who had visited Mysore some time ago, a minimum acreage of 5000 was necessary.

(2) The Departments of Agriculture, Horticulture Forest and Mysore State Railways had much scope for rearing such large plantations.

(3) In addition to rope, twine, mats and canvas, attractive carpets could be made out of sisal fibre.

(4) Inferior varieties of agave and aloe plants and also the waste material left after extraction of the fibre could be used as valuable manure.

50 The Director suggested that as Major Oakley seemed well informed on the subject, he might be asked to furnish a comprehensive scheme so that the question of establishing the industry on a large scale, especially in the Malnad, may be considered by Government. As regards the appointment of an Adviser, he said the question might be deferred till the scheme was ready.

51 Major Oakley was accordingly requested to furnish a scheme. He saw me on 22-4-1947 with Mr.J.F.Kalke, gave me a preliminary note and generally discussed the subject, promising to send in his proposals as early as possible. On 24-4-1947 he wrote enquiring in what manner a concrete scheme could be devised so as to incorporate his interests with those of Government. It would appear that in his nuseries at Sinduvalli, near Kadakola Railway Station, Major Oakley has about 150,000 young plants of Agave sisalana which he has to remove before the end of October next, as the land, which belonged to the Mysore Chromite Ltd., has since been sold

Starting of a Sisal Fibre industry.

File No. of 194 5636/38 General and Revenue Secretariat

Serial No.

to others. The Major, therefore, suggests that these plants may be used as a nucleus for a plantation to be started to establish the industry. He also says that at Sinduvalli he has some machinery, such as, a decorticator capable of treating about one lakh of leaves per day and two sets of brushing machines which are not easily obtainable these days and could be used for the proposed factory. 8943

52 On 9-5-1947 Mr.J.F.Walke sent an outline of a scheme prepared by Mr.J.S.Quin, Adviser on Rope Supplies to the Government of India.* In this it is stated that Mysore is considered as one of the most ideal centres for the development of the fibre. The idea was to float a joint stock company and approach Government for a block of forest land of 5000 acres on a ~~similar~~ Ruinart lease. This is apparently the scheme referred to in the letter of the Government of India of 14-9-1944. * V

53 From what has been said above, it may be seen that the first thing to do is to ascertain whether 5000 acres of land are available, either in one block or a number of blocks within easy reach of the factory to be established. According to Major Oakley, Hunsur or Periyapatna taluks would be the most suitable areas. The Revenue Commissioner and the Chief Conservator of Forests may be asked to investigate, in consultation with Major Oakley, whether the land required is available and if so on what terms it may be leased to any company that may be formed. If it is available the question of floating a company may be considered. A

54 In his note Major Oakley says that for the interval of 5 or 6 years which will elapse before the scheme comes to fruition, he has a proposal by which the Railway can supply the raw material, apparently from their aloe fences along the lines and round fields etc. He may be asked for details so that the Railway authorities may be consulted.

Ce 27/5

Dewan

A. 55 This may be done

To the Dir. of I & C & Secretary will also discuss this case with me.

27/5

SECY. DEV. DEPT. 19 NOV 1947 GOVT. OF MYSORE

5(a) Returned Duly Complimented. The Dewan said that this may await when it is taken up with the Govt. of India about 2 months back

KS Dt. 26/11/47 (15/11/47)

18/11/47

WD 05238—GPB—15,000—8-1-47

Starting a Sericulture industry

App. A

General and Revenue Secretariat | File No. | of 194 .

Serial No.

57) Draft letter put up with reference to para 55

58) No action is perhaps necessary now re para 57 - Instructions Re. para 56, the date on which the Dist Offrs should see the Dewan is put for orders

5/6/47

59) Dy Secy/ 5/6

5/6

60) Issue as suggested

C.S.
18/6

D. 7590-2 , dt 19-6-47

Revenue Commr

Copy to the Chief Conservator of Forests

Dir of Sericulture.

Requests to investigate in consultation with the Chief Conservator of forests the Major Oakley scheme - acquisition of 5000 acres of land.

6i

Results with reference to para 60 supra.

Sd/
20/6.

25/6

Dy Secy/ 25/6

Forwarded with compliments to the Director of Sericulture for perusal

Commissioner

Commissioner of Sericulture, Bangalore

25/6/47

25/6

For remarks of the Dist Offrs please see para 55 (3) where the matter was left

D.O.No. 432
27/6/47

DS, 27/6

DC D.O.No. 2
2-7-47

NOTE- Contn. Sheet

SECY. DEV. DEPT.
18. JUN. 1947
GOVT. OF MYS-RE

SECY. DEV. DEPT.
25. JUN. 1947
GOVT. OF MYSORE

Serial No.

[illegible]

Letter dt 14.7.47

Letter no. C2-4793/46-7 dated 13.8.47 from the R.C. asking for a [illegible]

[illegible]

Further letter no. C2-4793/46-7 dt 6.9.47 asking for State forest area in Kheda [illegible] Note for Rajya Sabha re. scheme for the distribution of [illegible] letter dt 11.10.47 for Rajya Sabha on the matter.

Note for Dr. Wolka re. the establishment of the rural fibre industry.

Letter dt 29/10/47 from Rajya Sabha re the matter.

Do 5/11/47 forwarding copy of the letter to the Secy, Constituent Assembly.

Note dt 12/11/47 for Dr. Wolka re. the arrangements to be made.

Question with D.O. 8/11/47 for Dr Wolka re the matter.

Order of the Hon'ble Sec on D.No. 1541 Dr Parson. I have told him (Mr. Walker) that we are awaiting a reply from the R.C. re: availability of land. He has promised to see the R.C. & expedite matters

(Dy CE G/c 47)

on 16/7/47

WD 05238—GPB—15,000—8-1-47

Sisal Fibre works - SB 76, 1541, 1727.
Dt 392/47. 5.12.03

Devlg orders on DNR. 2107

C.3 Ack & file with relevant Papers.

(Sd) C. E
21/11/47

C.1

Dft ackn Party After this file will be submitted

Sd
2/12

Issue Dft ack.

Sd
2/12/47

4-12-47.

D. 2761

J. F. Walke. Oakhampton. - B. City.

Conveys receipt of his notes dated 19th & 25th Nov 1947 re Sisal Fibre Industry.

Please see orders at para 53-56 & note. The Re has been requested to report in consultation with the C.C.F re. the availability & terms. The Re. has reported, in Sept '47 that the State Forest area in Hunsur & Periyapatna are not suitable & fit for Sisal fibre cultivation. Re. suitable area outside the Forests at Kollegal the Re is awaiting a further report & has promised to send a further Rpt to Govt. The C.C.F has not yet written to Govt; the action to be taken by him in this behalf may have to be ascertained.

As regards points at para 56

Sgt File indexed.

DA 392/69 Dec, 1981

Kind Reference is invited to the Remarks & the Order dt 7.12.81 vide para 56(a)

Major Oakley has sent copies of further Correspondence between the Law Officers & has sent a note* on the subject for perusal & to Decide & decision on any decision.

Put Again for orders,

JKJ 19/12/81 Dep Secy 70 30/12

Letter no nil dt 29.12.81 from Major Oakley Advising a Date to meet the Secy.

File taken from Sgt Rowe 11/1/82

Further letter dt 7/1/82 from Lt C.B. Oakley in the matter

Orders of the Secy as the Secy.

71

I have asked him to see me on the 2nd or 3rd Jan. 82 File

(Sd) C.E 29/12

xx 72

Mr Oakley saw me on the 2nd. Refer Please. (Sd) C.E. 5/1/82.

Put Subtr in continuation of Para 66-68 for orders,

JKJ 11/1/82

(Urgent case)

Dep Secy 74 11/1

Sisal fibre industry 2281, 4901 App. F III-2

General and Revenue Secretariat | Dfe File No. 392/44 of 194 .

Serial No.

75 Mr. Oakley saw me again today & gave me a further letter which is placed here. Regret & hurry up Ce 15/3 15/3

Letter dated 11.3.48 from Mr. oakley re. Sisal fibre industry

76 Submit for favourable orders Para 75.

18/3/48 18/3

77 15/3 DFW Secy

78 Await further report as envisaged in the last para of his letter

Ce 8/4 8/4

Secy (Consult Cpo about this & remind)

12/4 12/4

Letter dated 14.2. of Lieut Major CB Oakley asking for an interview in connection with Sisal fibre proposals.

Orders given DFW Legn. action pnd

79 Where are these? DFW B.T. 15/2

80 The Secretariat file on the subject is taken & perused. Apart from this there are no other papers on the subject.

81 The reports referred to at para 78 has not been received here so far.

82 The last two paras of letter

NOTE—Contn. Sheet

SECY. DEV. DEPT. 19. MAR. 19 GOVT. OF MYSORE

Serial file index

File No. [illegible] of 194 . 4901/Gen 5 4306.

General and Revenue Secretariat

Serial No.

dated 11/3/48 vide para 76 indicates the latest (available) position on the subject. The report of Major Oakley to interview the Secy is for orders,

P.W.D

Sec. C.

82) [illegible]
83) [illegible]

23/3/48. No objection to the [illegible] 4th March 48 [illegible]

27) [illegible]

28/3/48

84) [illegible]

85) [illegible]

1/8/48.

[illegible]

Letter no. Cy-4793/66-7 dated 9/1/48 from the R.C. forwarding copies of letters from [illegible]

86) The further report promised by the R.C. vide para 66 of new D.O. to Secy for Secret. The D.C. Lepcha Report that the report of Major Oakley has included a small part of the

Sisal fibre industry.

App. F. III-2

General and Revenue Secretariat

File No. 392/Cy of 194 3820, 4306

Serial No.

in Salem near Krishnagiri Mines the question of granting Govt. is under the consideration of S.D.O.

The Re now reports that Major Oakley has applied for the grant of lands in Mysore & Coorg DC that further reports from D.C's are awaited.

87) The following salient points may have to be got clear of any other.

1) Whether Major Oakley desires to develop this industry with private capital himself or in the alternative like the Govt. to take it up.

2) The details of lands so far granted by to him by the Rev. Dept.

3) To enable a definite & quick decision being taken about this industry, he will have to be asked to give a more concrete & specific proposal.

88) Mr engagement is at 3 p.m. on 7.3.49. (for today)

5/3/49

89) (Rev. Dept)

5/3/49

(90) Dis Collector in subject with Major Oakley he is proposed to sell away his mica deposits lying at Oklepenna near Bangalore

Note.—Contn. Sheet

Re: Sisal Fibre Industry

File No. ——— of 194 .

General and Revenue Secretariat

Serial No.

Railway Matters and Mr Rodakof
He is made departmental for several
reasons, without tangible results.
He was requested to approach chief
Dr of I + C to send up proposals
for floating a Company if it could be
worked as a profitable concern. Sisal hemp
& its products have a good market
and unless the people are educated to
grow this plant on a fairly large scale
it will not be a good business proposition
unless either the Indian Union Govt
by itself or in collaboration with State
Govts start the industry on a fairly
large scale, after assuring itself that
the raw material can be had on
plantation scale in some suitable area.
The Scheme is to present the little
holders of the area.

OFFICE OF THE MINISTER FOR FINANCE & INDUSTRIES
No. 3355
Date 8/3/49

Minister for Fin + Ind)

91) Dewsey + Dr. I + C
+ Dr Mathai - to meet me
Also Mr Oakley H.C.D 16/3

92) As date convenient to the Hon. Minister for Fin + Ind
may please be ascertained + intimated
P.A to the Hon. Minister for Fin + Ind) 17/3

Subsequently 24th (Thursday) afternoon at
3 p.m. in the Hon. Minister's Chamber -
18/3/49.

93) A letter may be sent
to Mr Oakley. 17/3

94) Dr. Fin + Ind
Dr. I + C
Dr. Mathai
Mr. Oakley

95) Mr. Patel

WD 02853—GPB—30,000—11-5-48

C. F. 74.]

Sisal Fibre Industry

4306 / 4907

## Routine Notes.

[To be used only for notes, requisitions, etc., not intended for permanent record.]

Sd. 4.4 with 2 drafts for appd.

Issue at once. Let the

Bz 21/3 27 pc [illegible] Dev. Secy under also

Mav 21/3/49

Issued.

No. D 6445 & 21-3-1949 to Major C.B. Okley,

6446-7 & " to (1) The Dr of Agr

(2) " " of Agriculture

Request them to meet the Minister for Finance & Industries at 3 P.M. in his Chambers on the 24-3-1949 to discuss the above subject.

Letter dt. 22/3/49 from Major C.B. Oakley D.S., Chairman, Oakley, Dunlop & Co. Ltd Dakhinpuram, Bangalore city requesting for fixing a suitable date for the meeting since there is another engagement on 24th inst.

Submitted for fixing another date for the meeting in connection with the Sisal Fibre Industries in view of the circumstances explained above.

Mav 22/3/49

Dev Secy

AR 22/3

Minister for Fin & Ind

Some other date after 27th inst.

Date altered as requested. 23/3/49

Please inform the Officer concerned.

Mav 24/3

Please inform the Director. Please write D.O. Mav 24/3

(Pass orders)

(Pass orders)

OFFICE OF THE MINISTER FOR FINANCE & INDUSTRIES.

3740

23/3/49

N.B.—Should routine notes be written on small slips, the notes must be copied on slips pasted on this form.

C. F. 74.]

WD 01547—GPB—40,000—9-[redacted]12

## Routine Notes.

[To be used only for notes, requisitions, etc., not intended for permanent record.]

103

104 Issue at once & put up about a week later.

105 Remembered as directed
The further date of the date, time & place of the meeting is for order.
(As per letter inform the Min Dept will be returning for Delhi on 2/4)

106 please put up on Monday

107
Remembered as directed

108 Major Oakley saw me yesterday and said that the wound he has received at date Conveyance to the Hon. Min for Defence may be considered and put up to the Hon. Min for Defence

109

N.B.— Should routine notes be written on small slips, the notes must be copied, or slips pasted on this form.

SECY. DEV DEPT
5. APR.
GOVT. OF [redacted]

4907, 5401

Further letter of 6/4/49 from Mr C.S Oakley towards' Cost 2nd letter to chief Sec

Entries action proc

CO Mr Oakley tells me that he would be here for another 10 days i.e. till the 15th A date may be given to him

Note in file & Secy

(Sd) B.T.K.
6/4.

111 Vide orders at. Paras 109 & 110.

Sec's letter Submr

Sd
12/4

Issue at once by Runderm dehiwy. & put up/Secy
12/4/49.

Issued
D. 7325-7 & 12.4.49.

Mr Lowe Typed
to do
AP 12/4

Mr Lowe have issued.
Also telephoned to Mr Dei & Api & Mr Spire give Dei & Sh

Mr Dei & Api said that they would like to see that he would leave visits to Mr Dey etc.

Meeting on 14/4/49 at 9 AM

The Dev Secy is also to be present at the meeting - vide Para 94.)

OFFICE OF THE MINISTER FOR FINANCE & INDUSTRIES.
No. 4187
Date 13.4.49.

Submr
Dev. Secy)
12/4/49.

Sd
12/4.

P.A to Hon Minr for Y & I)

113
12/4
Sd
13/4

Messrs G.S. Cakley
B.S. Appadorai Mudaliar & Etc
B.T. Narayan. & Dr. G. Yazdani
& C. Bhimasena Rao —

114

Present:

Had a full discussion — Mr Cakley will give a memorandum - regarding the local needs of sisal fibre in India - The suitability of Mysore soil and climate & suitable for growing sisal, the economical extent & acreage required, the estimated yield, cost of production and likely profit having regard to the price that might prevail at the time of the plantation comes for harvest and all such allied matters as would make the scheme worthy of consideration.

(2) The general conclusions arrived at may be stated as follows.-

1) Sisal fibre is of national importance it being used mostly for marine cordage.

2) India does not grow sisal anywhere to an appreciable extent - and is at present practically importing all her needs from abroad.

3) There is a short supply of sisal fibre in the world and this is an auspicious time to take it up.

Serial No.

4) Since it is a new industry - and in view of its national importance, the Govt of India may be approached to help the starting of an experimental ~~estate~~ plantation in Mysore state which experts have found to be ideally suited to sisal cultivation.

5) It would be very advantageous to make use of the experiments that Mr Oakley has conducted so far and entrust him with the work of running the experimental plantation under of course the normal control and supervision by the Govt. If that is not possible some way may be devised to utilize his experience for the industry.

6) As the agricultural side of the industry is of primary importance and everything depends on the success that is made of the cultivation of sisal, it is better this proposition is handled by the Ministry for Agriculture - and it can take up the matter with the Imperial Council of Agricultural Research and Agricultural Ministry of Govt of India.

146 This file will be sent over to the Ministry of Agriculture.

147 As to the other matters re the utilisation of this machinery for treating aloe -

*Note.*—Contn. Sheet

File No. 5401/47 of 194 .

6177/AF.
General and Revenue Secretariat

Serial No.

SECY. DEV. DEPT.
17. APR. 19
GOVT. OF MYSORE
4187

OFFICE OF THE MINISTER FOR REVENUE & PUBLIC WORKS
No. 8910
Dated 14/4/49

it would be well if ~~a deputation meeting is held at which the Honourable~~ could be present. The matter is taken up separately.

Secy 18 V.E.D
through 14/4/49
the Hon'ble Min for Rev & Agri 19 14 22/4.

Submitted for perusal

Re para 6 of the conclusions arrived at the meeting held on 14/4/49 a draft is put up addressed to the Dir of Agri is put up.

25/5/49 12.1 For perusal before issue Secretary 14/5

26/5/49 Noted. file

Draft send to the A & F Branch after perusal by Dev. Secy by 26/4/49.

27/4 27/4/49

For further action A & F Br)

Submitted

Action is taken to address the Dir of Agri. Vide AF 7010 dt 19-5-49. This file may be kept to the Br

23/5/49 2 to C Br 23/5

Dom 25/5/49

SECRETARIAT TO GOVT. OF MYSORE
No.
Date.
GEN. CAL. OF ACCTS
GENERAL & REVENUE SECTT.
25 MAY 1949

4907
D&C

127 It has definitely been ordered
by the Min of Fin & Plan for
the Min of Agri that the file
may be sent over to the
Ministry of Agri for they deal
with there Fins & a matter
concerning Agricultural Research It
is not clear why this file has
been returned back in this
file order at paras 115 - 119 & 123
Necessary entries have already been
made the Register re transfer
of this file to Agri Br Fins
may kindly be ordered to retransfer
to that Br for pursuing the matter
& taking further action as per
Minutes at paras 115 - 119.

128 Submitted
27/5/89.

Asst. Secy
A & F Wg.

26/5/89

26/5.

Respectfully

Submitted

Please examine if
there are any points
for orders & note - early

Submitted 129

There are no fresh points on which action has to be taken in this Branch. As regards para 6 of the Minutes of the Minister, action has been taken separately.

The other points have to be pursued at the D & C Branch. Hence the file may be returned to the D & C Branch

A/s
D & C Br
30/6

Recd on
Fins
3-6-89

Fins 1/6

3-6-89

6.6

131

Refer: Remarks given A & Bo
on Para 129

—

The entire matter depends upon the
view taken on Para 115 item (6)
The A & T Branch have again returned
the file in spite of the clear
minute of the Min I & B & Min
for Rev & Agr vide Paras 115 - 119
The Minister I & B has clearly
ordered that "it is better this
proposition is handled by the Ministry
of Agriculture" The Min for Agri &
has agreed. Despite of this,
file is being returned, thus
causing delay in further action.
It is also neither advisable nor
appropriate to have the matter
dealt with in two Branches for
this will lead to unnecessary
delay & confusion. The A & T
Branch may consult the Deptt
Secretary if they wish
But the file may kindly be
sent to the Ld Secy for

Social Welfare Activities 7847
4907 AF
OR

for lack of using suitable
instructions to the Agri Branch as
per orders at para 115 - 119
Subject for action if this may be dealt
with in the General Section.

13/6/19

(Dev Secy) 13/6

(Same. Card) The file to been ordered to be dealt
in the Gen. Sect. the directions may
then be kindly issued to the Agri
Gen. Sect. (Govt Nigles)

Gen. Secy W/C) 14/6

16/6

16/6/19
Secy

17/6

Noted

133 Action has been taken in the
Agricultural Secretariat by taking a
copy of the decisions noted in para 115
and 119. and the Director of Agriculture
has been addressed to report the action
taken to implement the decisions. This
Section is concerned with para 6 of
the decisions viz the Agri Side of the work
the rest being a matter concerned with
the Branch. Hence this file and the
Linked with 7953 AF } references bearing D no 6586 of the Fe Dr.
(Agriculture no 7752) may be transferred to the
Branch for Section for the industrial aspect
A || of the case as required in para 117 of the notes.
Encl 3/7

GOVT OF MYSORE
No.
Date. 16/6
7676
CENTRAL DEPARTMENTS

Sisal Fibre ~~on Draft~~ cultivation

4907, 6864

(134) This file has been received back from Ag Br under D.No. 316/Agl.

The file is again being returned to the Ag Br
Branch with a request to refer at para 114-119.
Refer: A (in para 133) — In para 117, it has been ordered that
other matters re cultivation & also the
marketing it may be taken up separately —
Since the whole subject is ordered to be
transferred to the Ag Br, this ~~part~~
will have to be naturally taken
up separately & works up by that Br,
as they are more connected with cultivation &
as otherwise there will be confusion
(135) The file may be transferred
to Ag Br for further action as per
minutes at paras 114-119. (Please see
para 131-2)

Sec
26/7/49.

Dep. Secy)

26.7.49

(136) Received on 28/7/49 with file bearing No 49/
and registered as 316/Ag. IRC

L

222
24/9 WS.

Office of [illegible]
1723
No. T. 172.
Date of Receipt 8/9/49
Date of Return

To

The Honourable
Shri K. C. Reddy, M.A., B.L., M.C.A., etc,
PRIME MINISTER, Government of Mysore,
Bangalore.

Office of the Minister for Finance and Industries. No. P646 Date 14-9-49

SECY. TO GOVT. DEPTT. 15 SEP 49 GOVT. OF MYSORE

Sir,

I have taken the liberty of addressing this on the subject of development of Sisal hemp production in Mysore both as long-term planting project, and as Cottage industry in the villages. It may not be out of place to mention that Sisal, agave sisalana, was first imported into Mysore practically at the fag-end of the Nineteenth and beginning of the twetieth century. Unfortunately despite the earnest endeavour of such stalwarts as Sir Alfred Chatterton and others, and the well-meaning but haphazard attempts of a few planters, a headway could not be made. The reasons, which deterred the pioneers from doing any effective work on Sisal may be put down to the fact that Sisal being a long-term project requiring large capital investments and large blocks of land, and the sponsors sometime ignorant of the requirements of Agave sisalana under different soil and climatic conditions obtaining in different parts of the country, and due to the confusion at the time in the minds of the authorities as to the difference between Agave sisalana and Agave furcroydis-the latter being the spinose Mexican Sisal, -the proposition did not catch the fancy of the investors. In my "Memorandum on Fibres other than cotton & jute", 1948, submitted to the Govt. of India in the Dept. of Agriculture in 1945, and since issued as a Bulletin No.66 of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research, I have dealt with the matter in full.

I may mention here that sometime in 1919 I applied for 5,000 acres of land from the then Mysore Government from Bombay, and Sir Alfred Chatterton was asked by the Mysore Government to contact me. I saw Sir Alfred in this connection but he was loathe to my having one Mr. Kapur as a financing partner in as much as that gentleman had funds with the Yokohama Specie Bank, Ltd. So the matter ended. While I visited Bangalore in 1945 January, in my capacity as Fibre Development Officer to the then Govt. of India, Mr. Appadurai Mudaliar, -then your Director of Industries, - asked me to send in a small scheme for Sisal plantation on a modest scale. Unfortunately being engaged by the Government to make a survey and report the findings, I could not get a chance of sending in the scheme. This, is, in short, the history of my endeavours so far as Mysore is concerned. The Director of Agriculture, then I believe Dr. Ganapathi Iyer, was much interested but he complained that his Department had very little funds.

I now understand that under your able guidance various developmental works are being undertaken. May I, therefore, request you to kindly look into the question of (1) Planting of Sisal hemp wither on large-scale with automatic decorticating units, or small scale planting with small "Raspador" types of decorticators as joint Government-cum-Public Limited Companies, or co-operative organisations; and (2) planting of common Aloe fibre plants, and Sisal plants, along railway and canal embankments-to save the embankments from soil-erosion, -and at the same-time enabling the villagers to cut leaves and make use of them for production of raw fibre by means of simple appliances and Hand-driven Fibre machines, which can be easily made from my plans, - the fibre being ultimately spun, twisted, braided, and woven and made into ropes, twines, plaits and braids, Door-mats, matting, rugs, and fancy purses, Hand-bags, Sandals, etc, for which there is a ready market in and outside India. In addition

P. 7.9.49
Hon. minister for finance & Industries w/c
Is this proposal the same as that covered by the Map Industry at Periyapatna sponsored by Binlas? may please be examined and a reply sent to the party
Rdd 7/9/49
Dev. Secy Consult Mr Dakley who is very anxious about this matter very early
H.D 13/9/49
Please get file from Sec. Gr. dt 15/9/49.

owners of fields and gardens, and the P.W.D. in charge of the road construction may be asked to grow agaves as live fence, wherever possible, so as to make it possible for the villagers to start these cottage industries, which would give part-time occupation to the land-owning classes and whole-time occupation to the landless people.

It may be further mentioned that India had to depend on an allocation of 10,000 tons of Sisal hemp from East Africa to fight the World WarII successfully in the absence of Manila hemp, supply of which was cut off during the Japanese occupation of the Phillipines. We are still depending on East Africa for Sisal hemp and on the Phillipines for Manila hemp. The Worlds' "Hard Fibre" position may be briefly stated to be in a difficult way these days-hence there has been great appreciation in Sisal hemp and Aloe fibre prices. In fact prices vary from Rs.600/- to Rs.1,000/- a ton in India now. While before the War the total World production was over 5,00,000 tons a year, since the devastation caused by the War,-in 1948 it was only 4,00,000 tons a year- the share of Manila hemp being 1/3rd and that of Sisal hemp and agave fibres 2/3rd,- practically 1,00,000 tons less. As Sisal enterprise is a long-term affair, taking 4/5 years or more to pay, it is evident that despite all attempts by other countries to step up production, it would take a pretty long time to catch up the old production figure. This, therefore, affords an opportunity equally to all countries to start Sisal and agave planting now. But not a day should be lost in our endeavour atleast to make India independent of such foreign sources of vital raw material supply, which has been amply proved by British Admiralty tests, and the the six years' World War II to be an admirable substitute ~~xxxMaxxkx~~ of Manila hemp for "Marine Cordage" for Indian Defence requirements, in emergency. The Govt. of India Industries Panel on "Coir, rope, cordage and fibres opined that.... such industrial fibres as Sisal hemp should be developed on large-scale basis in National interests.

Unfortunately there are some people, who on the analogy of East Africa, wants plantations to be started on 10,000 acres of land employing automatic machines for decortication by the score, etc. But if these well-meaning and bookish theorists are to study the history of Sisal and Agave fibre development in other countries, they would find that most of the Sisal producing countries in the World started on a modest scale and when the industry proved sufficiently established, extensions were made. Even in the Phillipines and Java today automatic decorticators, which cost a very large amount of money, requiring large power-plants and contingents of labourers are only employed where the planted area is large enough, whereas on small plantations they still employ the "Raspadors" to tackle the problem. Our present condition is such that it does not warrant the setting up of large-scale enterprise everywhere, and it may be a better policy to start model plantations with small power "Raspadors" to give an impetus to its development in the beginning.

As regards Cottage Sisal and Agave fibre industry, I am to state that I was very much interested in the matter in so far as Mysore is concerned. I found even the "Coir" industry there is not fully developed at the time. It struck me that Sisal and Agave fibres can be developed more easily than Coir in Mysore, and would help the province not only in putting handsome profits into the pockets of the villagers etc, who may work on co-operative lines, but the industry can enable Mysore to add to the Dollar-pool of India by setting up export trade in Sisal and Aloe fibre products very much on the same lines as the "Coir" industry in Travancore & Cochin.

May I hope you will kindly look into this matter? I am sorry I am unable to send you a copy of my pamphlet "Lesser-known commercial fibres of India" issued in connection with the "All-India Fibre Exhibition" of 1938 at Calcutta, which greatly interested our present Prime Minister of India, the Honourable Pandit Nehruji, who kindly handed it over to H.E.Dr.Katju, now the Governor of U.P.

I understand my friend -Major C.B.Oakley,- is trying to revive interest in Sisal hemp and the Agaves, and I wish I could go and help the cause. But being unemployed these days, I am sorry I

P.T.O.

I am not in a position to tackle the problem on my own bat. I am, however, prepared , Sir, if the need were to go over and do my bit for Mysore if I may, in my capacity as a Consulting Fibre Expert. May I hope, Sir, you will be pleased to consider the advisability of getting development projects under way with our assistance ? I am further to add that having been initially employed during World War I in joint-stock Companies, and later being employed as Fibre Expert in the Industries Department of the Punjab & Bombay Governments, and as Fibre Expert in commercial firms in Bombay, Madras, and United Provinces and Bihar, and having recently worked under the India Government Agriculture Department, I possess sufficient knowledge about these fibre industries from agricultural, industrial and commercial points of view. My friend Dr.Harold.H. Mann, formerly Pioneer of Indian Sisal enterprise, now with the British Government, and Prof.Lyster Dewey of U.S.A. Fibre Investigations, wrote to me a few years back that the great knowledge and practical experience, which I had the good fortune of garnering in the course of some 32 years' work in most of the Indian provinces and states would be wasted unless Indian National Leaders do ~~not~~ make use of the same. I am now 54 years of age, and have few years more to live, I wish you could give me a chance of doing my bit for the country. It is needless for me to add that the late Shri Mahadeb Desai at the suggestion of our Revered Mahatmaji tried to help me at Bombay some years back. Unfortunately those illustrious Sons of Mother India are alas! no more to help poor people like us, who having done their humble duties by the country, are now left to quietly die.

Yours in Service,

J.K. Sircar

( J. K.Sircar )

Consulting Fibre Expert.

Baidyanath-Deoghar, Bihar.
31st August, 1949.

( Member, Fibres Committee of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research & Member, Fibres sub-committee of the Indian Central Cottage Industries Institute of the Govt.of India Directorate General of Industries & Supplies. )

Letter dated 31/8/79 from Mr J.K. Sircar
to the Chief Minister re. his cultivation
of Sisal & also requisition of his lands.

Minutes on the file

137) As the proposal to lease
out land owned by the Flax industry
at Periyapattanam is sponsored by Govt?
may please be examined and a
reply sent to the party.

Submitted
7/9.

138) Consult Mr Oakley who is
very anxious about this industry
very early. Submitted 13.9.79

139) Please see the file. Sd/ Secy.
Sd/ B.T.K. 17/9

140) The proposals of Mr Oakley re.
the cultivation of Sisal plants etc.
have been ordered to be dismissed
in A & I Branch & this file was
accordingly transferred to that Branch
for further action as all the
aspects of the proposals
the present representation of
Mr Sircar is also about the
cultivation of Sisal & also plant-
To avoid confusion & prompt
action being taken, it is submitted

P.T.O.

Subject

172.3

that it is also appropriate that this is also examined in the A & F Branch this may therefore be done in order to be transferred to A & F Br. for further action after minutes overleaf

6/10/49

Sec. Secy)

5/10/49

5/10/49 141) Put up with file sent

SECY. DEV. 166 26 OCT. GOVT. OF MYSORE

142) 1. Major Okley has been given a subvention of Rs.1000/- in Government Order No.A.F. 1271 dated 21st August 1949. He states that he has utilised the entire amount for improving the Nursery at Oklipuram near Bangalore City.

Office of the Minister for Finance and Industries. No. 4684. Date 29-12-49

143) 2. He wants a further grant of Rs.5000/- for developing his scheme.

144) 3. ~~The~~ Rs. 1000/- is sanctioned in the A & F Branch . It is also suggested in the file that the India Council of Agricultural Research may be associated with the experiments that are being conducted by Major Okley with a subvention.

SECY. DEV. 3 GOVT.

145) 4. This subject relates to Research and may therefore be transferred to A & F branch as already ordered by the Hon. Minister for Finance & Industries on 14-4-1949.

Minister for Fin. & Ind.

29/12

146) D.C.

29/12

30/12

30/12

Rec'd 31/12

Sisal cultivation



Serial No. 1 Srei

147) The file relating to the sanction of a sum of Rs 10.00/- only to Major C.B. Oakley, Bangalore, as subsistence for the purpose of arranging for availability of a demonstration of Sisal plants & fibres, is put up herewith (Limited file)

Flag 'H'

The delay is due to the fact that the sanction is with great difficulty. The file is traced & put up.

148) Major C.B. Oakley now wants a further subsistence for the development of his scheme.

149) As this relates to Research the D.C.A.R. may be consulted in the first instance.

Submitted for orders

R.C.S. 2.2.50

150. In para 137, the Chief Minister's query whether the proposal is the same as that covered by the Flax Industry sponsored Birlas has to be dealt with. On the Comprehensive scheme drawn up by Srs. C. Bhimasena Rao, Major C.B. Oakley's Assistant, the Finance and Industries Ministers has minuted on 1.9.49 that "this is an industry which should be started. It has an assured future

Flag 'O'

Sisal Cultivation

1910 5282

File No. of 19

(P General and Revenue Secretariat

Serial No.

This Scheme may be taken up with the Govt. of India. The matter must be pursued vigorously". The Principal, Agri College and Director Agri. Research Institute may be Consulted unofficially and requested to furnish his views urgently.

No. 13750 Date 14.2

151) Gen Secy) Kerala

152) GS. Gen

C-0376/Misc 6/16-2-50 11/2/50

153) Forwarded W.C. to the Principal, Agricultural College & Director, Agricultural Research Institute, Hebbal, Bangalore, U.O. for favour of remarks & early return

BD
C. Venugopalachari
for Secy to Govt
Food & Agri Depts

14.2.50

29. 18/2/50

U.O No 7. Dated 31-3-50

Retransmitted with compliments.

154) The subject under consideration is beyond my province as it is mainly concerned with the availability of large areas of land for sisal plantations and with the manufacture and marketing of the sisal fibre. These two questions are the concern of the Revenue and the Industries and Commerce Departments and not of Agricultural Research.

155) The only opinion which I could express on this matter is that the poor land now to be planted

(Contd.

with sisal might become fit, after a time, for fruit gardens and even for agricultural crops, provided it is not too stony and gravelly.

156) As the Director of Agriculture in Madras, I paid a visit some ten years ago to Major Oakley's aloe fibre extracting plant near Penukonda in Anantapur District. It was not working to its full capacity because of the difficulty of transporting aloe leaves at a cheap rate to the plant from the areas round about. The industry in question will, in my opinion, succeed only if there are big sisal plantations, each with a capacity to feed a big mobile fibre extracting plant for at least 2 - 3 months in a year. All the plantations should provide enough work all the year round to one big plant or each plantation should have a smaller but economic plant to deal with its crop effectively.

157) Sisal plant is said to grow well in Mysore and efficient plants for extracting aloe fibre seem to be also available. There is also a good market at present for sisal fibre. The most important consideration, however, is the elimination of high transport charges which is possible only if there are big sisal plantations as mentioned above.

Principal, Agricultural College and
ex-officio Director, Agrl. Research Institute.

SKR:

1/4/30 xx
24/1/4

158) The c. o. V. B. I. is for Jaccon & jaccubal.

"Sisal Fibre Industry"

5282

Agri

Secy

159) The D.D.A.R.S. Mac
the subject under con-
sideration is beyond his
province as this does not
pertain to Agri. Research.

160) Approved the Rev.
com & the C&E Branch will
be consulted as proposed
one by the D.D.A.R.S. in
para 157 of Secy note.

161) Submitted for orders
with ref to paras 151 & 152
of Secy note.

The matter has shewn the point that the questions involved (grant of large areas of land for Sisal cultivation & manufacture & marketing of the sisal fibre) concern the Revenue & Industries Departments & hence nothing does with Agl. Research. The matter has therefore to be pursued in the Ind Branch.

CCP 5.4.50

5/4/4.

5 APR 1950

Secy 7/4/50

Secy 7/4/4 163
4/4 yes
4/4/50

Asst Secy DCO BV W/C 7/4/4

3882/IIe

# Sisal fibre cultivation

This 164 is a question dealing with the Sisal fibre cultivation and its ~~disposal~~ utilisation.

The Minister, F.I.D. and the Minister for Agriculture (vide paras 116, 119, 166) have ordered that the question may be dealt with in the Agricultural Sector. Further action has therefore to be taken in the A & F.Br. and not in the Sec. Branch.

SECY. 1982 GOVT. OF

5/4/58

(Dev. Secy) 166

5/4/58.

5/4/58

(Asst. Secy A & F Br/c) 16/Supdt

7/4

168

The Sisal fibre industry as such, does not seem to be in existence on a large scale in the State at present. The Sisal plant has been stated to grow well in Mysore by virtue of its soil and other favourable conditions. The fibre industry when developed has been considered to become profitable. The question now concerns itself with the possible measures to be taken to take a survey of the existing areas of the natural growth of this plant in the State, a study of the condition favourable to its cultivation in future

and then the development of the fibre industry which includes the installation of fibre extracting plants of required Capacities etc., concerning the Industries & Dept. The Dir. of Agri may perhaps be unofficially requested to take action in Consultation with the Rev. Dept heads in regard to the preliminary investigation connected with the Surveys of the existing plantations, future plans for Cultivation etc.

6/8/14. Secy Revd & Agri 16/9 8/9 yes 10/9/50 Yes 10/9/50

170

The report of the Director of Agri on the possibilities of development of Sisal industry in the Several districts is placed in the file (Flag A. & D no 6676)

171

6 11/9/50 From the report of the Dir. of Agri. letter No. HC. 94/49-50 dated 7.3.1950 in the linked file since put up, it is seen reported that the following are the important Considerations for the starting of the Sisal industry:— (Flag A)

(i) Rainfall of at least 35".

# Sisal Cultivation and Industry

5282
AT

(ii) Perennial supply of large quantities of water for retting and cleaning the fibre;

(iii) Good road and other transport facilities for movement of Sisal and its fibre from the field to the factory and on to railway and loading Centres; and

(iv) Large blocks of land in one Zone

192 The Director reports that Hyderabad District offers scope for starting this industry. Large blocks of land to the extent of Rs. 2,000 - 6,000 acres are said to be available in Periyapatna, Heggadevanakote and Hunsur and also in Bangalore and Shimoga Districts - while the other facilities are said to be not available. He is of the opinion that this industry is a long term investment requiring a large Capital (about Rs. 8 to 10 lakhs) both for planting and for erecting a factory with up-to-date machinery and that it could be only a limited liability Company that can undertake to sponsor this industry, perhaps with the active support from the Government.

For orders 193 The reply from the Director of Agri. 5/22/4. may be sent to the Director for Fcis (with reference this minute on Major oakley's letter) for personal

in Confidential file

Secy
F+A) 24.4

5282/Af - Sisal Cultivation and Industry

1723/58

174 Fin Secretary

25/4/50

(Home Affairs)

1334 Dated 25/4/50 Delhi

171-174

28/4

176 11/5/50

Many thanks to the Scientific for finance also. for Secretary

Secy Fin) 11/5

11/5/50 Home 11/5

(Home for Finance Secy).

178

STER STRIES. 6.11 2.5.50

She Dr of Ire may see this - Home Affairs.

H.E.S

11/5/50

179 This had to be dealt with in the I.A.G. Dt.

1672/17/5

15/5/50

180

Dept. Secy. (C.)

17/5

Secy 18/5

No. D. 208 24-5-50.

Forwarded, with Compliments, to the Director of Industries & Commerce for favour of his views

Dep. Secy (C) 26/5/50.

OFFICE OF DIRECTOR I. & C. NO. 58 DATED 25/5/50

18/5/52

SISAL CULTIVATION AND INDUSTRY.

File No. 5282/A.F.

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No. No. 55/10-51 Dated 26th October 1950.

Returned, with compliments.

181 The development of the Sisal Fibre Industry in Mysore has been pending action ever since 1918 when the State Government passed orders offering very liberal concessions to growers of the crop. The sisal itself was imported into Mysore in 1892 by Mr. Ricketts though nothing practical has resulted ever since.

182 All the preliminary work carried out so far suggests that it can be cultivated successfully in the State. Only land of gravelly and stony nature is required for the purpose and there is plenty of such land lying fallow and available in the State. Cultivation of Sisal will therefore not in any way affect food production.

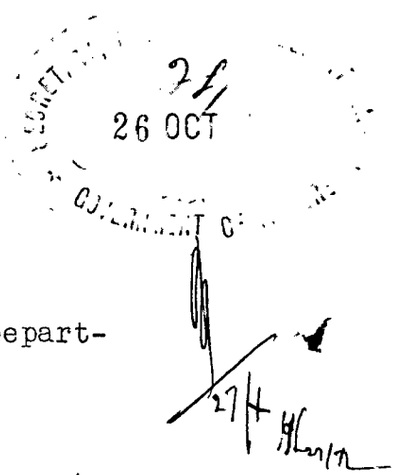
183 The financial results of the Scheme have improved far beyond expectation after the Second World War. The rate per ton of the fibre was about Rs.1,000/- F.O.B. Calcutta in 1947-48, and it is likely the rate has moved up further, in line with the price movements in the world of all other fibres like Jute, Cotton, Wool and Silk. A net profit or Rs.62-8-0 per acre was estimated in 1918 when the price of the fibre was much lower. Profits apart, the other merits of the scheme are, it will be helpful in increasing the national income by bringing waste lands under crop without in any way interfering with food production and providing corresponding employment to the population. Above all, it will improve the foreign exchange resources so badly in need by the country.

184 It is not reasonable to expect the public in India to take up to the venture enthusiastically for the obvious reason that over 6 years will have to elapse before any return is obtained and they have not seen the industry successfully

successfully established in India so far. It is a case in which Government ~~alone~~ can show the example. The initiative must therefore come from Government which alone is interested in the adoption of a sound Land utilisation policy with all the other advantages referred to above.

185 I strongly recommend, therefore, that a Committee be immediately appointed to go into the question in detail and submit a definite scheme indicating a suitable site for raising plantations and construction of a factory, as also estimates of probable cost and return. The Committee may consist of:-

1. The Revenue Commissioner in Mysore (CHAIRMAN)
2. The Director of Industries and Commerce.
3. The Director of Agriculture.
4. The Chief Conservator of Forests.
5. The Deputy Commissioner, Mysore District.



186 One of the Gazetted Assistants in the Industries Department may be appointed Secretary of the said Committee.

187 The Committee may be called upon to submit their report within about two months.

26/10/50 Director of Industries and Commerce.

Dev Secy to Govt etc)

188

The above proposal of Dir of I & C to constitute a Committee with the Rev Comr as Chairman to thoroughly examine all aspects of the question & to submit a report with definite recommendations may perhaps be agreed

# Sisal Fibre Industry

1723

To in consultation with the Rev. Comm^r
It would be perhaps more appropriate
& desirable that the Senior Engineer
Asst to the R.C is made the Secy
to this Committee, which would be more
conducive to quick work & facilitate the
Re-Chairman this Committee.
Under for orders

Sh
30/x/52

189 The views of the Rev. Comm^r may be invited.

Sh
31/10/52

Dev. Secy.

31/10

SECRETARY, DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT
0147
1 NOV 1950
GOVERNMENT OF MYSORE

190

Before asking the R.C. to take up the matter
it has to consider whether he can in a position to
take up any scheme that may eventually be formulated.
Para 184 indicates that the industry is to be a
Government venture. The raising of plantations, erection
of a factory etc is an expensive proposition, and, in
terms of the recent suggestion made by the G of I
in the Dept. of Economic Affairs, no new
commitments for capital expenditure over the
quinquennium commencing with 1950-51 is to
be undertaken, no new project should be planned
and the existing resources and personnel
and should be concentrated on schemes already
in operation. In the light of these facts it is
for orders whether this matter is to be pursued.

GENERAL & REVENUE SECRETARIAT
U. O. NO. FL. 7858
3 NOV 1950
FINANCIAL SECRETARY, BANGALORE.

Thin fin & md
this P. Secy

2/11. 1952

Sisal Fibre Industry — 7858/7C

191 Therefore the matter has to be dropped.

4.11.50.

192

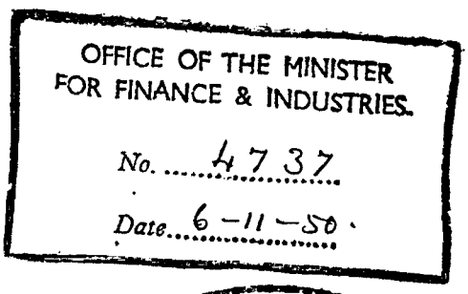
may be dropped for the present

Sd/- D

6.11.50

Intimate Dir Ind.

10/11




193

Dft letter put up to Dir Ind as orders

194 A letter to major Oakley is also prepared communicating the above decision. Draft to be put up after the papers received.

195 Issue & put up draft &

15/11/50 Major Oakley — 17/11/50

C.W. Pl. speak before draft

17/11/50.

Issued letter No. D 5756 d 28-11-1950 to the Dir Ind. States that the Govt have decided to drop the proposals for the present. D 5757-8 Copy to RC Dir Ag.

Sisal Fibre Industry 1723

9k 392/44

196 Resolution as decided
9k is sent ascertaining that
Major Oakley is no more
& as such time is no ver
for a reply & sent
9f after the papers will
be received

9k
1/12/50

2/12

2/12/50

2/12

2/3

y forwarded with Compliments and for information to the Secretary to Government, Development Department.

4038
D/C

Trade Commissioner.

E.3182/GB. 7th December, 1944.

BY AIR MAIL.

145

Prem Krishen Esq., I.C.S.,
Deputy Secretary to the Government of India,
Department of Education, Health & Lands,
NEW DELHI.

13 JAN 45
1112

Dear Sir

Mysore Government Enquiry 3182/Sisal Fibre Machinery, concerning your No. Dy-2331-A-44-D, dated 14th September, 1944 to the High Commissioner for India in London.

Further to my letter dated 28th November, regarding the above, Messrs. Robey & Co., have sent me further Leaflet No. P.373 regarding Baling Presses, which supersedes the previous leaflet enclosed in the correspondence namely P.355, which kindly note.

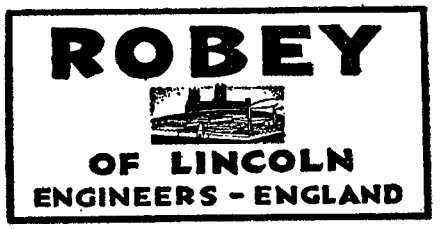
Yours faithfully,

Trade Commissioner.

enc:

C

Offices:
church St. E.C.3.
nsion House, 4922 (3Lines)
hedral Fen. London.




Telegrams:
ROBEY, LINCOLN.
Telephone:
LINCOLN. 660.

4487
9tc

# ROBEY & CO., LTD.

12/

Reference.

Reference. GE.5274. FRP/LEP.

Copy to Govt

GLOBE WORKS,
LINCOLN.

22nd November 1944.

Capt. S.T. Finstead,
Grand Buildings,
Trafalgar Square,
LONDON : W.C.2.

---

Dear Sir,

E.3182/SISAL FIBRE MACHINERY.

ith reference to your letter of the 15th inst., regarding your enquiry as above, we are extremely sorry that we have not been able to deal with this matter earlier, but now have pleasure in giving the information called for as far as we can, and trust this will meet your requirements.

From the original enquiry we understand that a scheme is being considered for a planation of 5,000 acres of Sisal in Mysore State and that the output of fibre may be taken as ½ ton per acre.

With regard to the questions raised in connection with this planation the replies are as follows :-

1. We have endeavoured to obtain plans of suitable layouts for a planation of 500 acres from other users of our machines, but regret that we have not been able to obtain these.

Sisal Plants may be propagated by Bulbils from flower stalks or by suckers which grow up from the root stalks. Bulbils must be cultivated in a Nursery 12-24 months before being transplanted to the field. Suckers are sometimes cultivated in a Nursery to give opportunity for better selection.

The land to be planted is thoroughly cleared and is often ploughed and cultivated and the plants are then set out in rows, the spacing varying according to the nature of the soil from 650 to 1,200 plants per acre. Where the soil is rich, then it has been found profitable to space the plants to give about 650 per acre.

The land should be cultivated or the weeds cleared three or four times each year until the first harvest, and afterwards at the time of each harvest or about twice a year.

P.T.O.

With regard to sections for rotation we are unable to obtain definite information regarding this, but we believe that in some cases these are made in 500 acre sections.

2. With regard to the machinery suitable for dealings with 2,500 tons of sisal per year, this depends upon the number of days worked per annum, and the number of hours worked per day, assuming that there are 250 working days, the capacity of the plants would require to be 10 tons per day, and assuming that the hours worked per day are 10 hours, we should recommend the installation of four of our Superdecor Machines of which one would be a spare. Three of these machines should easily turn out 10 tons per day and in Tanganyika, we have records of the daily output being 3½ - 4 tons per day per machine over several months.

Our superdecor Decorticator is fully described in Publication No.F.687, but since this was printed we have introduced further improvements to our machine, which now include stainless steel concaves and drum knives or beaters, the fan for the changeover of the leaf between the drums is now mounted on ground level and driven together with the main chain through an enclosed type worm gearbox, and the feed table now consists of two conveyor belts instead of the chains previously used.

For Brushing Machines we recommend eight of our 42" x 72" machines which are fully described in our Publication No. 549.

We also recommend two Baling Presses making 5 cwts. bales complete with three-throw pumps all as described in Publication No. P.355.

In addition to this, we should also provide suitable water piping inside the Factory for conducting water to each of the decorticators for washing in the machine, and for sluicing away the refuse, but no pumps are included since the cost and power required for these would depend upon your water conditions.

We may say however, that the quantity of water required for four decorticators would be about 1,200 gallons per minute total at about 15 - 20'0" head.

We should also provide shafting, bearings, pulleys and belts for the decorticator, brusher and press pump drives.

The four decorticators should be arranged in one building which would be approximately 80'0" length by 40'0" width, and the brushing machines and baling presses in a second building which would require to be approximately 120'0" length by 40'0" width.

With regard to the power required for driving the above machinery, we see that probably electric power will be available but as no particulars of supply are given no power units have been included for by us in the approximate price given below for the machinery.

We can however, supply either steam, producer gas or diesel units to suit the power requirements, but we have not included for these at present since electricity may be available, and in this case we would recommend a separate motor of 100 I.P.P. to drive each

decorticator, 2 - 15 H.P. motors to drive the four brushing machines each, and 2 - 15 H.P. motors for driving the two baling press pumps.

Standard motor speeds can be used and gearing for the decorticator motors, and belt drives for the other motors arranged accordingly. Our approximate price for the whole of the above machinery would be.. .. .. .. .. .. .. £ 15,500. 0. 0d F.O.B. English Port (Fifteen thousand, five hundred pounds). Approximate shipping weight 225 Ocean tons.

For the above machinery we have assumed that sun drying of the sisal coming from the decorticators can be carried out, but if artificial drying is required then we could supply 2 - 10 ton sets of Squeezing Rolls with two mechanical driyers, and two boilers and chimneys for supplying the necessary heat for the approximate price of.. .. .. .. .. .. .. £ 12,000. 0. 0. F.C.P. English Port. (Twelve thousand pounds). Approximate shipping weight 380 Ocean tons.

The two Squeezing Presses would have plain and wrapped rollers 39" long, and would be provided with rubber feed and delivery belts each 3'0" centres, and would be fitted with fast and loose belt drives, the B.H.P. required for each machine being 3.

The two Drying Machines offered by us would each be of the multifan type with drying chamber 8'0" inside and each section fitted with one air circulating fan. Each machine will also be fitted with one exhaust fan and four independent heating batteries for which steam would be provided by one of our No.40 Loco Boilers with chimney, donkey pump and injector and lagging. Each drying machine would require 3 - 10 H.P. Motors for driving the circulating fans one 5 H.P. Motor for driving the exhaust fan and one 2 H.P. Motor for driving the conveyor carrying the sisal through the machine, but no motors are included by us.

The above two drying plants would be 100'0" long by 35'0" wide, and this building should be situated between the Decorticator building and the building containing the brushing machines and baling presses.

3. There appears to be a misunderstanding regarding the Portable Power Raspador as we have not recently designed one of these, nor do we know of any that have been made which have proved satisfactory. In any case, even if we had designed such a machine, we should not recommend it where a large output of sisal is required, as in the present case.

4. We are advised by users in East Africa that the light railway system is infinitely more economical for moving leaf, both in capital expenditure and in running costs tha is motor transport.

We hope this preliminary information will meet present requirements, and we shall be only too pleased to return to this proposal at any later date, to give you more detailed information and prices which may be required.

Also if there is any information required in connection with the working of the sisal plantation, if we are allowed sufficient time, we can no doubt obtain such information from friends and users of our machines in East Africa, and we hope therefore you will not fail to write us for any information which may be helpful.

Yours faithfully,

FOR ROBEY & CO., LIMITED.

DIRECTOR.

ENCS:

F. 687 )
549 ) In triplicate.
P. 355 )
Drawing.

P.S. With regard to the Decorticator building, we enclose herewith a typical layout Drawing No. J. 437/27 for three decorticators prepared for French clients in Africa which may be useful to your friends, but this of course is entirely preliminary.

This drawing only shows three decorticators, but it would be extended a further bay to accommodate four, and in the plan shown electric driving of the Decorticators is provided by a separate motor for each as suggested above.

Copy forwarded with Compliments to the Secretary to Government,
Development Department,
BANGALORE, S.India.

E.3182/GB. 28th November, 1944.

**BY AIR MAIL.**

Prem Krishen Esq., I.C.S.,
Deputy Secretary to the Government of India,
Department of Education, Health and Lands,
NEW DELHI.

Dear Sir, Mysore Government Enquiry 3182/Sisal Fibre Machinery, concerning your No. Dy.2331-A-44-D. dated 14th September, 1944 to the High Commissioner for India in London.

This enquiry was passed on to the Mysore Trade Commissioner in London, who has obtained from Messrs. Robey & Co., Ltd., of Lincoln, specifications with quotation, also drawings and leaflets, which please find enclosed herewith.

A copy of this correspondence has been sent to the Mysore Government for information which kindly note.

Yours faithfully,

Trade Commissioner.

Encs: Dwg.No.J437/27.
Leaflets.
specifications
with quotations.

COPY.

BY AIR MAIL.

6177

N.Dy.2331-A/44-D.
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA.

Department of Education, Health and Lands
New Delhi, the 14th September, 1944.

From, Prem Krishen Esq., I.C.S.,
Deputy Secretary to the Government of India.

To The High Commissioner for India,
London.

Sub:- Sisal Fibre Machinery - Details & Estimates.

Sir,

I am directed to say that a scheme for establishing a plantation of 5000 acres under Sisal in Mysore State is under consideration for the supply of raw material for ropes required for defence purposes. Information on the following points may please be obtained from Messrs. Robey & Co., Lincoln, England, who specialise in sisal machinery, and furnished to the Government of India, as early as possible:-

1. Plans of suitable layouts for a plantation of 5000 acres.

2. Details of the complete machinery together with estimates of cost required for a plantation of the above size. The output of fibre may be taken as ½ ton per acre.

3. Messrs. Robey & Co., have recently designed a portable power raspador for decorticating sisal fibre. Their opinion may be invited as to whether they recommend the use of these machines in preference to their stationary plants. If the answer is in the affirmative, they may be requested to supply full details of the number of units required together with costs.

4. Whether the firm considers a light railway system for transporting leaves or fibres for a plantation of 5000 acres would be more economical than motor transport. If so, full details of the system recommended together with costs may be furnished.

Under item 2, it may be mentioned that it is probable that electric power will be available for the factory; failing which, the prime mover should be designed for producer gas or steam - the latter to be generated from coal, wood or bagasse.

I have the honour to be,
Sir,
Your most obedient servant,

signed. (S.S. Bedi).
for Deputy Secretary.

Appendix F. G.—1]

SUBJECT.: Sisal fibre machinery - Mysore Govt. enquiry.

Section Dn

File No. 392—44

Serial No. 2

*Diary No. of letter replied to*.....

No. D 8496

To The Dy Secy to the Govt. of India Depts of Education Health & Lands. New Delhi

General and Revenue Secretrriat

( .... )

the 194

Date of issue 11/6/47

Signed by MB

Sir,

I am directed to invite ref. to letter No. E 3182/G.B dated 28/11/46 from Trade Comr. for Mys in London addressed to you on the above subject & to say that you to be so good as to indicate from which dept. the Govt. the enquiry has emanated.

List of enclosures.....

Copied by.....

Examined by.....

WD 0744—GPB—15,000—30-10-44

Dy Secy 11/6/47

Dy Secy 16/6/47

No.360-MY/45.

Government of India.
Department of Education, Health & Lands.
New Delhi, the 13th July 1945.

From

D.J.Gandhy, Esquire.,
Assistant Agricultural Production
Adviser (Impliments).

To

The Secretary to the Government of
His Highness the Maharaja of Mysore,
Development Department,
BANGALORE.

Subject:- Sisal Fibre Machinery-Mysore Government enquiry.

************

Sir,

With reference to your letter No.D.8496 Hr.392-446, dated the 11th June 1945, I write to say that the letter No.E.3182/G.B., dated the 28th November 1944, from the Trade Commissioner for Mysore in London, referred to therein, does not appear to have been received in this Department. It is, therefore, requested that a copy of that letter may please be forwarded to this Department to enable us to furnish you the required information.

I have the honour to be,
Sir,
Your most obedient servant,

13/7/45

ASSTT.AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION
ADVISER(IMPLEMENTS).

"PURI"

Appendix F. G.—1]

SUBJECT Sisal fibre machinery

Section Pk

File No. 392/45

Serial No. 4

*Diary No. of letter replied to*

No. D 1260 (1)

General and Revenue Secretrriat

( )

the 194

To The Asst Agricultural Production Adviser (Implements) G.S.D. New Delhi

Date of issue 25/8

Signed by M Z

Sir,

With reference to your letter No. 360-My/43 dated 13.7.1945 on the above subject, I am directed to forward herewith a copy of letter No. E.3182/S.3 dated 28/4/45 and I am to say that it is not possible to furnish the information.

T-S
Photo
D.No. 4308 &
is enclosed
9-28/III/45

List of enclosures

1

Copied by

Examined by

for Deputy Secy

WD 0744—GPB—15,000—30-10-44

PROPRIETOR,
MAJOR C. B. OAKLEY, V.D.,
A.M.I.M.E., M.I.M., & M.E.

SINDUVALLI FARM,
KADAKOLA,
M. S. RY.

17th. November 1945.

The Dewan of Mysore,
Government of Mysore,
The Secretariate,
BANGALORE.

Dear Sir,

AGAVE SISALANA.

I shall be glad to know if your Government is at all interested in the usage and development of the sisal fibre industry in the State of Mysore, and if so, if some agreement could be arrived at by which the young plants of these estates could be put to some useful purpose so as to promote the industry to a greater extent of modernity.

I may say that the species of agave sisalana yields a fibre which is far superior to the ordinary aloe, and if the fibre is split by the use of special machinery, it can be used for all manner of purposes and can even be woven into very strong fabrics.

Communications in the first instance on the subject should kindly be directed to me at Sinduvalli.

Thanking you in anticipation of an early reply.

Yours faithfully,

(J.F.Walke).

Submitted to the ~~General~~ Development Secretary.

By order,

LIEUT.
Personal Assistant to Dewan.

Bangalore,
20th November 45.

9tc 392-44-6.

3

2. Dir I. & C.

Mr J. J. Walker
Sirdewali Farm
Kadakola
M. S. Rly.

Dear Sir,

Subj: Sisal fibre industry.

With reference to your letter dated the 17th Nov. 1945, on the above subject, I am desired to state that the matter is under the Consideration of Govt.

Yours obt.

P 6/12/45

for Director

Thomas

Copy w. to the Dir of

He for investigation and
any report with specific
proposals if any. He may
also comment upon
the availability of such
plants in other districts.
A copy of this letter from
Mr. Walker is enclosed. P/type
D.N. 8/03

P 6/12/45
Mr Dudley -

Jr. 392 44-8

GENERAL REVENUE
No. 4778
Date.

Government of Mysore.

Department of Industries & Commerce.

7844 AF

No.D5.133/45-46. Office of the Director,
Bangalore, dated, 17th March 1947.

To

Charles E. Noronha, Esq, M.A.,
Secretary to Government,
Development Department,
Bangalore.

Subject: Sisal Fibre industry and the appointment of Mr.J.K. Sircar, as adviser for Fibre industry.

---

Sir,

With reference to your memo No.D.4545 dated 10th December 1945 forwarding a copy of your letter No.D.4544/I&C. dated 10th December 1945 to Mr. Walke, Sinduvalli Farm, Kadakola, M.S.Ry., and your letter No.D.9105 dated 27th June 1946 asking for opinion in the matter of the appointment of Mr.J. K. Sircar, as adviser for fibre industry, I have the honour to state as follows:---

The matter was discussed with Mr. Maj. C.B.Oakley, V.D., Oaklipuram, Bangalore city, who had called at this office on 21-11-46. It is understood that Mr. Oakley has furnished all information connected with Sisal and aloe fibres to the Director of Agriculture and also to the Development Secretary to Government.

A discussion with Mr. Oakley has revealed the following facts:

In order that sisal and aloe fibre industries are started on a large scale, it is necessary in the first instance to rear large plantations. This is therefore an essentially Agricultural industry. Mr. Oakley is of opinion that the Department of Agriculture, Department of Horticulture, Forest Department and the Mysore State Railways have wide scope for planting and rearing large plantations and aloe and sisal plants. Reports may kindly be obtained from these Departments in this matter. A minimum acreage to take up this industry is said to be 5,000 as per advice given by Lieut. Barkley Hill, Fibre Expert, to the Government of India, who visited Mysore sometime ago. For Private individuals 500 to 1000 acres is stated to be an economic unit. It is said that in addition to - ropes, twines, mats and canvas, attractive carpets could be made out of sisal according to the information given by Mr.Oakley. Inferior varieties of sisal and aloe plants and also the wastage in the process of conversion of the leaves into fibres are considered to have value as fertile manure. At present there are no plantations on a large scale reared in the State, as such aloe and sisal are mostly found as wild growth and no cultural operations are carried on. Attempts however, seem to have been made at Jakkur and also Sinduvalli near Kadakola to grow small plantations. The sisal plants now available are thus negligible and cannot be expected to feed a factory on a large scale.

Mr. Oakley seems well informed on this subject and also to possess a good deal of literature in respect of this industry including a history of attempts so far made by the Bombay and Madras Governments, to develop this industry and the various - appliances that are used in this industry. I would suggest the

P.T.O

the Government inviting Mr. Oakley to furnish a comprehensive scheme for the rearing of plantations and also starting this industry on a large scale with detailed estimates of costs so that the question of the feasibility of starting this industry in the State especially in the Malnad areas may be actively considered by Government.

The question of appointing an Adviser may be deferred till the scheme suggested is prepared and placed in the hands of Government.

I have the honour to be,
Sir,
Your most obedient servant,

PRIDE TO

DIRECTOR.

19/3/47

Nv.

Dft 4 D6429

Dec. 392-44-8 D/16 4/47

To. J. K. Sircar, Esq

Ex Fibre Development Officer

to the Govt of India

Baidyanath - Deoghar

Bihar

Dear Sir, Sejal fibre industry

I am desired to refer

to your letter dated 17/6/48

to the Dewan, offering your services

in connection with the above

matter & to state that which the Govt are grateful

~~and to convey the thanks of~~

~~Govt~~ for your offer, ~~and to~~ they regret

~~that it is regretted~~

~~state~~ that your services are

not required at present

Yours obt

Ce

17/4

Dewan

9&c. 392 44 Dft I D 6447 A/16 4/47

2 Pt

To.

Major C.B. Oakley V.D.
A.M.S.M.E, M.G.M.
V.M.E,
Sirumalai Farm
Kadakola
M.S. Rly.

Dear Sir, Major Oakley,

Subject: Sisal fibre industry

I am desired to refer to the discussion you had with the Director of Agr, on 21-11-1946, on the above subject and to request you to be so good as to forward a comprehensive scheme for raising the plantation and also starting the industry on a large scale with estimates of cost etc for the consideration of Government

Yours faithfully,

12/4

6428 D/16.4.47 Dir Agr.

Memo

Copy sent to Dir of Agr with

Reference to his letter no Ds-133/ces-6
dated 17-3-1947. In this connection
I am with to point out that a
letter under date 10/12/45 on the subject
has been written on 17.3.1947, after
a lapse of 1 year 2½ months. The reason
delay [illegible] for
[illegible]

Ro
Ce 1/4
1/4
Dealer

11/4/47

Dec. 2392-44-10

4778

Care of

# OAKLEY DUNCAN & Co. Ltd.,

*MINE OWNERS, MINING MECHANICAL ENGINEERS*

TELEGRAMS: "MINERALS"

*Chairman:*
MAJOR C. B. OAKLEY, V.D.,
A.M.I.M.E. & M.I.M. & M.E.

"OAKLIPURAM"

*Bangalore City* 21st April 1947.

SECY. DEV. 22 APR 1947 GOVT. OF MYSORE

INDUSTRIES & COMMERCE BRANCH
GENERAL & REVENUE SECT.
No. 5279
Date. 22/4

Mr. C.E. Noronha, m.a,
Development Department,
Government of Mysore,
Bangalore.

Dear Mr. Noronha,

I must plead guilty to having rather neglected the matter of the sisal fibre. Before I put up the scheme I should like to have a meeting with you and as I have handed over the Sisal Department to Mr. J.F. Walke, we will both come and see you very early. I will take the opportunity of finding you in the office between 3 p.m. and 4 on Tuesday, the 22nd April. Hope this will suit you.

Yours sincerely,

C B Oakley

CBO.grn.

Memo by C.B. Oakley, being notes for an interview with Mr.Noronha, on Tuesday the 22nd April, 1947.

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With regard to large scale scheme I have particulars of this which is prepared by the Government of India after their visit over practically the whole of India and ascertained the true Indian position with regard to this important fibre industry. I was asked to press the matter with the Government of Mysore as the scheme was sponsered by the Rope Advisor and Mr.J.K. Sircar the late fibre Expert to the Government of India during the war time. My memo on the subject re Periyapatna Estates will explain in brief the history of my acitivities, development or rather the absence of development of the sisal fibre in India. The cause of the delay in dealing with this subject is the urgent necessity of producing food rather than the utility products. The scheme for 5000 acres by the Government of India has been carefully thought out. I do not agree with all its conclusions but it forms a basis for the staring of a large scale operation. While I am in full accord with the idea of a large scale operation I am of opinion that in order to me the interegnm of some 5 or 6 years that will elapse before this scheme can become effective, I have drafted a letter to the Agent of the Mysore Railway but have not made any move in this connection until the view of the Mysore Government as to the possibility of using the Railway in the manner indicated was acceptable to them. The merits of this railway proposition also form a subject of a separate note, but neverthelsess it is in my opinion has a considerable merit as getting a quick return and ascertaining the suitability of the various parts of the country for the growth of this plant. I have rather veared round to an additional movement which can be without much difficulty installed simultaniously with the working of the big tract of country. This is more in the interests of a large scale enterprise. The question has often been put to me in what way will the ryot benefit by the increased growth of sisal fibre in the State and I found it very difficult to give a satisfactory answer and therefore I have evolved the scheme which may be described as a large portable unit to traverse the whole of the State by means of the Railway and the roads on the well-known principle of mechanical

thrashing and cul[illegible] machines. My view is that it will cost little to initiate if it is a State Aided or even a State Venture. Nothing will be lost if it does not reach up tom our expectations and the answer as to the return to the ryot himself is with the second grade fibre that will be produced in sufficient quantities to supply all his requirements while the bleas or the waste seeing that it constitutes half the bulk handled on the basis of 50 per cent is water and the rest is the matter with high manureal properties. The high class fibre can be made into very important ropes for internal use as well as export if the demand of local consumption should fall. The scheme briefly is that the Railway itself presents the scheme of system of transport and the permanent way staff if enlarged would serve the dual purpose of improving the appearances of the Railways and a marketable product as well as a nursery for the whole of the State. Ins other words, it is the utilisation of exisiting transport facilities that cannot be created except at uneconomic cost. It is a distributor of a utility article with minimum expense the merits of this plant for fencing purposes in unequalled, and it its use in other countries notably Bahamas is more or less on the line now I suggest viz., for impentrable hedging to protect crops, owing to its powerful grip of its roots it prevents erosion and the spread of vegetation as it creates moisture on the ground.

DEVELOPMENT OF MY LANDS IN PERIYAPATNA TALUK, MYSORE DISTRICT.

AS A MIXED FARMING. The three pieces of land which I hold, Abalthi, Tiger Hall, and Aiyurbidu, are all admirably suited for grazing cattle, and I have selected Abalthi on which to make a start in this work, as it is the largest and the most central. In order to utilise the natural advantages of the lands to the utmost, and with as little delay as possible, I have decided to take up Dairy Farming with the object later of including General Farming and the planting of suitable trees.

The greatest source of expense in Dairy Farming is the maintenance of cows during their dry period. To stall-feed cows when dry, runs away with most of the profit earned during their milking months. The only way to overcome this is to have ample grazing ground, where the cows, when dry, and the calves can be kept at a minimum of cost, until they again become economic profit earners.

To implement this scheme, I have so far stocked 'Abalthi' with about a hundred head of cattle, consisting of 40 large Delhi Buffaloes, nearly all in calf 22 Bullocks, of various sizes and ages, and a number of well-bred Sindhi cows and calves, many of them calves bred by me. Suitable stabling is being provided on site, as well as huts for the housing of staff and labour.

It is hardly necessary to labour the point that there is always a ready market for milk, and the cows when in milk, can be transported to Mysore and /or Bangalore, the cost of which is negligible when compared to the advantage of cheap maintenance during their dry season, or alternatively, move the milk on1

On all these three plots of land there is a combination of dry and wet lands, with ample supply of water in the form of catchment tanks. With the wet lands, coupled with the ample supply of water, and the available cattle manure which will quickly accumulate, mixed farming and the planting of suitable fruit trees should prove profitable, in addition to the Dairy Farming project.

I have Tractors, Ploughs, and plough Bulls ready for work, and in a short period of time I should be able to show profitable returns for the work which has been taken up. I have been a member of the Mysore Agricultural and Experimental Union Committee for decades.

SISAL. For a number of years I have interested myself in the cultivation of the Sisal plant, as well as the production of fibre, having for 7 years run an estate in the Anantapur District with considerable success. In order to secure a workable supply of the real Sisal plant, I bought up the Seegay Hosur Estate Coorg, and have since then planted out nurseries with Bulbils and Suckers from these plants. I now have many plants down, and about five lakhs of Bulbils ready for planting, as well as some 20,000 plants fully grown, ready to pole to produce further Bulbils and Suckers.

In addition to the above, I have a Decorticator capable of treating about a lac of leaves per day, and other machinery necessary for this work. It will be realised that I now have the nucleus for starting a full-sized plantation of the best Sisal, and a factory to work the same.

This matter was laid by me before the Govt. of India Agricultural Research Dept. in 1936. Nothing transpired till 1942, except I still carried on my nurseries. Now the Govt. of India have prepared a scheme of 5,000 acres which is to be put before the Mysore Govt. by me, Govt. of India to subsidise, contemplate a Mysore State-Aided venture. East African Experts approved of Hi or Periyapatna as the site. I want to push this longside the 'Grow more Food' plans, but it is too big for me, I fear. There is an all India trade in Sec -lings alone - Fibre prices have risen up from 250 to 700 a ton, and are likely remain high.

In 1936 the East African Sisal Expert visited Abalthi and expressed his view that climate conditions and circumstances rendered Abalthi suitable

AGAVE SISALANA GROWTH.
SISAL FIBRE INDUSTRY.

SISAL

As matters are at present, it is the desire of Major Oakley to remove his agave nurseries at Sinduvalli, near Kadakola Station on the Mysore Railways, to some other locality, and as this has got to be completed before the end of October of this year, it would be most appropriate to move the plants during the south-west monsoon.

The reason why Major Oakley has to remove his nurseries is because the Mysore Chromite Company have sold out their interests at Sinduvalli, and as Major Oakley had utilised their lands for his nurseries, he has to remove them, as aforesaid, by the end of October.

From time to time schemes have been put up in regard to establishing agave plantations, and there must be, no doubt, particulars on record with the Government of Mysore in respect to these, and the attached project drawn up by the Government of India relates also to a scheme proposed for the Mysore State.

In view of having now received a letter dated the 16th. April 1947, copy appended, from Mr.C.E.Noronha of the General and Revenue Department of the Government of Mysore, on the subject, which brings up the matter again, Major Oakley has requested him to make an appointment to-day between 3 and 4 p.m., so that discussions may be renewed in regard to establishing plantations so that the industry of sisal fibre may be started on a large scale, in consequence of which it is necessary to know how the interests of Major Oakley and those of the Government of Mysore may be fitted together.

Oaklipuram:
Bangalore City.
22nd. April 1947.

C O P Y.

M.C.E.Noronha, M.A.

Secretary to Government.
Development Department.

Government of Mysore.

GENERAL AND REVENUE SECRETARIAT

BANGALORE, 16th. April 1947

No:6427/94C 392-44-9.

Dear Major Oakley,

SUBJECT:- SISAL FIBRE INDUSTRY.

I am desired to refer to the discussions you had with the Director of Industries and Commerce, on the 21st. November, 1946, on the above subject and to request you to be so good as to forward a comprensive scheme for rearing of the plantations and also starting this industry on a large scale with estimates of cost, etc:, for the consideration of Government.

Major C.B.Oakley, V.D.,
A. M.I.M.E.,M.I.M.
& M.E.
Sinduvalli Farm,
Kadakola. (M.S.Rys.)

Yours sincerely,

(Signed) C.E.Noronha.

---

C O P Y.

OAKLIPURAM,
BANGALORE CITY.
22nd. April 1947.

Mr.C.E.Noronha,
Development Department,
Government of Mysore,
BANGALORE.

Dear Mr.Noronha,

I must plead guilty to having rather neglected the matter of the sisal fibre. Before I put up the scheme I should like to have a meeting with you and as I have handed over the Sisal Department to Mr.J.F.Walke, we will both come and see you very early. I will take the opportunity of finding you in the office between 3 p.m. and 4 on Tuesday, the 22nd. April. Hope this will suit you.

Yours sincerely,

(Signed) C.B.Oakley.

# POOR USE OF LANDS IN INDIA

## NEGLECT OF SOIL, MAIN CAUSE OF FAMINE

*(By J. F. WALKE)*

IN travelling in India it is surprising to see the poor use made of so much of the lands, on the one hand, and on the other, to read in the newspapers that the people are underfed and that grave famine conditions are threatening the country. But yet one will see in, among the areas uncultivated, a small patch of green crops growing here and there on levelled land watered by a well, which shows what the soil would produce if it were given a fair chance. It goes without saying that the greatest cause of malnutrition and famine is the neglect of the soil, and, if foodstuffs be produced on improvised soils, their quality will be poor as a result of which the health of those who eat them—men and his domestic animals—will accordingly suffer.

It has been pointed out over many years that, unless primitive ways of agriculture in India give way to more modern ideas, India cannot feed herself. The proof of the pudding is in the eating, and, since she has been cut off from the usual sources of imported foodstuffs, we hear of supplies to the populace having to be reduced more and more, and, indeed, that, if this is not done, millions will succumb to malnutrition and the sicknesses brought in its wake.

Hence the appeal to the world for food, which, however, is required as alike to feed those of other countries in pressing need, but had the ways of agriculture been changed, India would not now be in the plight with which she is faced. But yet it is not too late to save the situation to some extent, and rather than to seek continually to reduce supplies, would it not be as well to use every possible means to increase them, especially now that the rains are approaching, even if it be necessary to employ armies of men and machines?

Mechanisation has helped the world enormously, and it has made Europe and America what they are to-day in the industrial and agricultural spheres, and, although India has advanced a lot in the use of machinery for industrial purposes, it is agriculture which provides 70 per cent. of India's occupations, but, as aforesaid, still on very primitive lines. And, moreover, it is doubtful, under present conditions, as to whether mechanised methods


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In the Banking Department, deposits of the Central Government have risen by Rs. 1.17 crores to Rs. 532.62 crores, while those of other Governments have fallen by Rs. 83.30 lakhs. Balances of Scheduled Banks have shot up by Rs. 8.08 crores to Rs. 83.35 crores. Deposits of others, too, have increased but by only Rs. 2.91 crores. Bills have gone down by Rs. 24.88 lakhs, but other liabilities have gone up by Rs. 1.23 crores.

On the assets side, the cash position has improved from Rs. 9.19 crores to Rs. 14.56 crores. There has also been a sharp rise of Rs. 7.72 crores in Treasury Bills, under bills purchased and discounted. Balances held abroad have, however, declined by Rs. 1.64 crores to Rs. 604.34 crores. Of the remaining items, investments have gone up by Rs. 98.51 lakhs and other assets by Rs. 89.49 lakhs.

IMPERIAL BANK OF INDIA

# PROCEEDINGS OF THE GOVERNMENT OF MYSORE

Read:-

Representation dated 13-7-49 from Major Oakley, Oakalipuram, Bangalore City, requesting, in the circumstances stated, the grant of a subvention of Rs.2,000/- or less for the purpose of arranging a demonstration of Sisal plants and fibre on the occasion of the projected visit of the Agriculture Research Commissioner, Government of India, to Bangalore.

ORDER No. A.F.1271-73/Agri. 30-49-2,

DATED, BANGALORE, THE 24th AUGUST, 1949.

Government are pleased to sanction a sum of Rs. 1,000/- (Rupees one thousand) only to Major C.B.Oakley, Oaklipuram, Bangalore, as subvention for the purpose referred to above.

2. The Director of Agriculture is requested to intimate the source from which the amount is to be met to the Comptroller.

xx xx

For General Secretary to Government.

To

The Director of Agriculture in Mysore.
The Director and Principal, Agricultural Research Institute.
The Comptroller to Government through F.D.

---

" Copy "

(K. Sankaran Nayar)
For Secretary to Government,
Development Department.

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(K. Sankaran Nayar)
For Secretary to Government,
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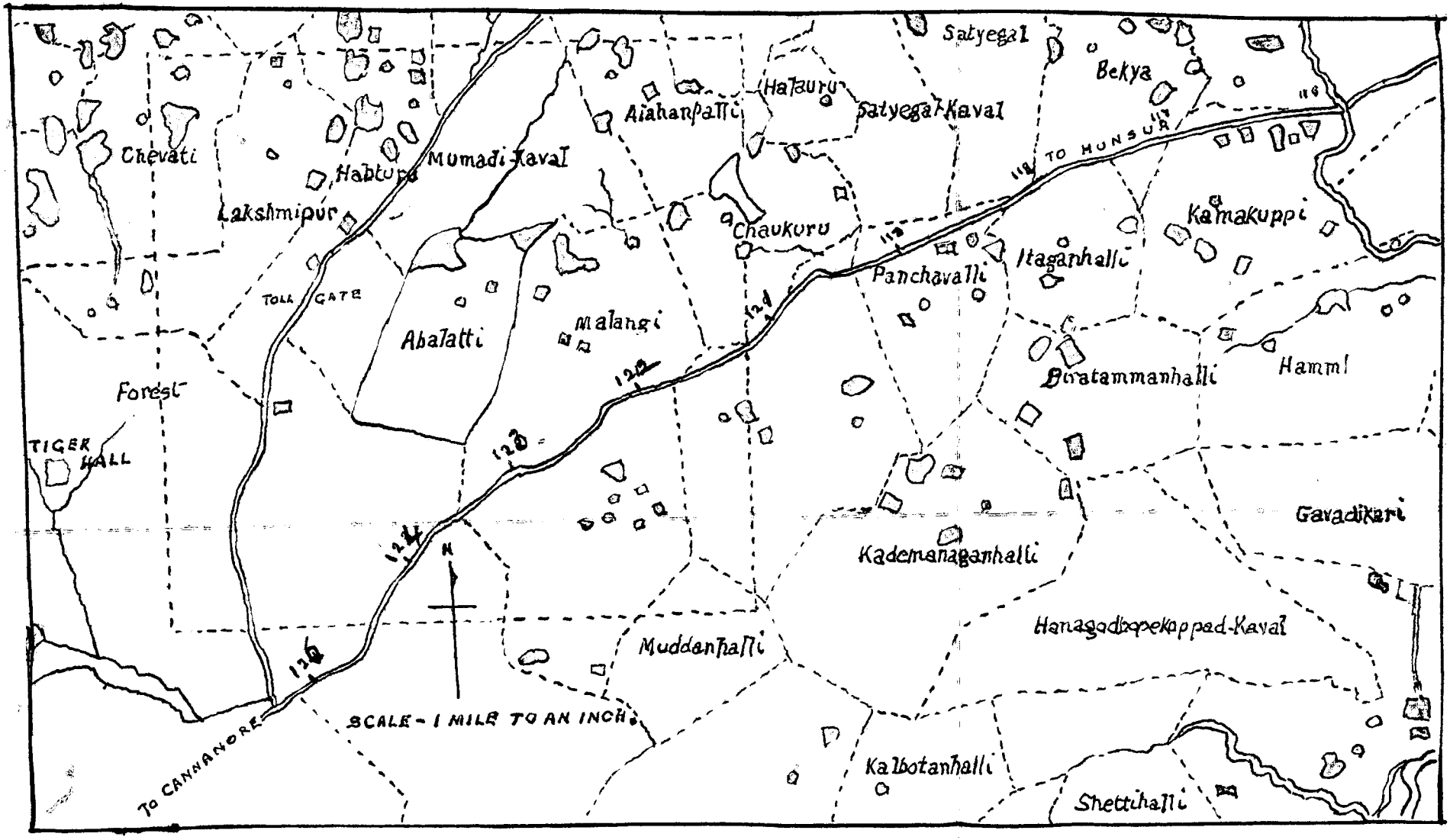

Satyegal
Bekya
Aiahanpalli
Hatauru
Satyegal Kaval
Chevati
Habtura
Mumadi Kaval
TO HUNSUR
Lakshmipur
Chaukuru
Kamakuppi
Itaganhalli
Panchavalli
TOLL GATE
Malangi
Abalatti
Hamml
Forest
Gavadikari
TIGER HALL
Kademanaganhalli
Muddanhalli
Hanagadkopekoppad-Kaval
SCALE - 1 MILE TO AN INCH
TO CANNANORE
Kalbotanhalli
Shettihalli

D. C. No. 425 - B. 392 - 44 -

# OAKLEY DUNCAN & Co. Ltd.,

*MINE OWNERS, MINING MECHANICAL ENGINEERS*


TELEGRAMS: "MINERALS"

*Chairman:*
MAJOR C. B. OAKLEY, V.D.,
A.M.I.M.E. & M.I.M. & M.E.

"OAKLIPURAM"

AGRICULTURAL DEPARTMENT.



SECY DEPTT. 25 APR 1947 GOVT. OF MYS


*Bangalore City* 24th. April 1947.

C.E.Noronha, Esquire, M.A.,
Secretary to Government Development Department,
Government of Mysore,
The Secretariate,
BANGALORE.


INDUSTRIES & COMMERCE BRANCH
GENERAL & REVENUE SECTT.
No. 5709
Date.


Dear Sir,

AGAVE SISALANA.
SISAL FIBRE INDUSTRY.

Further to your letter No: D6427/94C 392-44-9 of the 16th. instant to Major Oakley, and the interview Major Oakley and Mr. Walke had with you on the 22nd. idem on the above subject, we would like to know in what manner a concrete scheme could be devised so as to incorporate those of Major Oakley's interests with that of the Government, in view of the position as explained in the note of the 22nd. left with you, which to repeat said, that as Major Oakley desires to remove his agave sisalana nurseries at Sinduvalli, near Kadakola Station on the Mysore Railways, to some other locality, and as this has got to be completed before the end of October of this year, it would be most appropriate to move the plants during the south-west monsoon.

2 The reason why Major Oakley has to remove his nurseries is because the Mysore Chromite Company have sold out their interests at Sinduvalli, and as Major Oakley had utilised their lands for his nurseries, he has to remove them, as aforesaid, by the end of October.

3 From time to time schemes have been put up in regard to establishing agave plantations, and there must be, no doubt, particulars on record with the Government of Mysore in respect to these, and the attached project drawn up by the Government of India relates also to a scheme

proposed for the Mysore State.

4 In view of having now received a letter dated the 16th. of April 1947, copy appended, from Mr.C.E.Noronha of the General and Revenue Department of the Government of Mysore, on the subject, which brings up the matter again, Major Oakley has requested him to make an appointment to-day between 3 and 4 p.m., so that discussions may be re renewed in regard to establishing plantations so that the industry of sisal fibre may be started on a large scale, in consequence of which it is necessary to know how the interests of Major Oakley and those of the Government of Mysore may be fitted together.

5 This brings us up to that stage of the interview with you on the 22nd., and gives an outline of Major Oakley's position relating to his nurseries at Sinduvalli, in connection with which, too, it is now to be decided as to whether the growths are to be put on the market and thus distributed for sale, or whether they may contribute to the establishment of a agave sisalana plantation in the State of Mysore.

It may not be necessary to say here how valuable the fibre is, more especially that of the agave sisalana, from which fibre and plant can be produced not only rope and cordage, but in like manner binder twine, rugs and matting, tarpaulins, factory beltings, brooms and brushes, soles for shoes, fishing-nets, fire hose, and if the fibre is split sufficiently by brushing, it can be intermixed successfully to strengthen softer textiles. It can be used also for the manufacture of paper, and the pulp from the leaves after decortication has taken place, if properly treated can be turned into a fertiliser as also a valuable gum.

With a growth, however, such as agave, it is necessary to take a long view in the matter, such as they did in Africa where huge plantations now exist, and as it takes time for plantations to mature

to that extent to offer extensive propagation, it is not so easy to get private enterprise to readily take an interest, and hence it is more a matter of Governments to engender. It is for this reason, now that the opportunity offers, that the ideas of the Government of Mysore is sought whereby the nurseries of those of Major Oakley may be utilised to plant out an area which may in time to come prove a valuable addition to the industries of Mysore.

It may be also be said that at Sinduvalli there is some machinery which has to do with the sisal fibre industry, which comprises of a large decorticator and two sets of brushes, and as these are not so easily obtainable in these days, they may be of some interest to some future undertaking.

If some outline could now be submitted by the Government of Mysore, whereby, as already mentioned in this letter, some concrete scheme could be devised so as to incorporate Major Oakley's growths of agave sisalana at Sinduvalli, the time is now appropriate with the approaching south-west monsoon, but as the nurseries, as aforesaid, have got to be cleared before the end of October, a very early decision will have to be made in the matter.

Awaiting your further news.

Yours faithfully,

C.S. Oakley

Chairman.

# OAKLEY DUNCAN & Co. Ltd.,

*MINE OWNERS, MINING MECHANICAL ENGINEERS*

TELEGRAMS: "MINERALS"

*Chairman:*
MAJOR C. B. OAKLEY, V.D.,
A.M.I.M.E. & M.I.M. & M.E.

"OAKLIPURAM"

AGRICULTURAL DEPARTMENT.

SECY. DEV. DEPTT
1 MAY 1947
GOVT. OF MYSORE

*Bangalore City* 30th. April 194 7.

INDUSTRIES & COMMERCE BRANCH
GENERAL & REVENUE SECTT.
5471
Date. 3/5

C.E.Noronha, Esquire, M.A.,
Secretary to Government Development Department,
Government of Mysore,
The Secretariate,
BANGALORE.

Dear Sir,

AGAVE SISALANA.
SISAL FIBRE INDUSTRY.

I posted a letter to you on the 24th. instant on the above subject, and which has reference to Mr. Oakley's and my interview with you on the 22nd. idem, and shall be glad to know if the Government of Mysore is likely to interest itself at all in the matter, and with special reference to paragraph five of the letter under reference.

Thanking you in anticipation of an early reply.

Yours very truly,

(J.F.Walke).

G. R. S. App. F. G. 3.

GENERAL AND REVENUE SECRETARIAT.

(*Continuation sheet draft form.*)

D 6794
D 7.5.47

Subject: Agave Sisalana
Sisal Fibre Industry

Dear Sir,

I am desired to acknowledge the receipt of your letters dated 24-4-47 and 30-4-47 on the above subject and to state that the matter is under consideration and the decision of Govt will be intimated as soon as possible.

yours faithfully,

J. F. Walke Esq
Oakley Duncan & Co Ltd
Cathipuram
Bangalore city

Pmr
3/5

WD 0255—GPB—10,000—23-8-32

# OAKLEY DUNCAN & Co. Ltd.,

*MINE OWNERS, MINING MECHANICAL ENGINEERS*

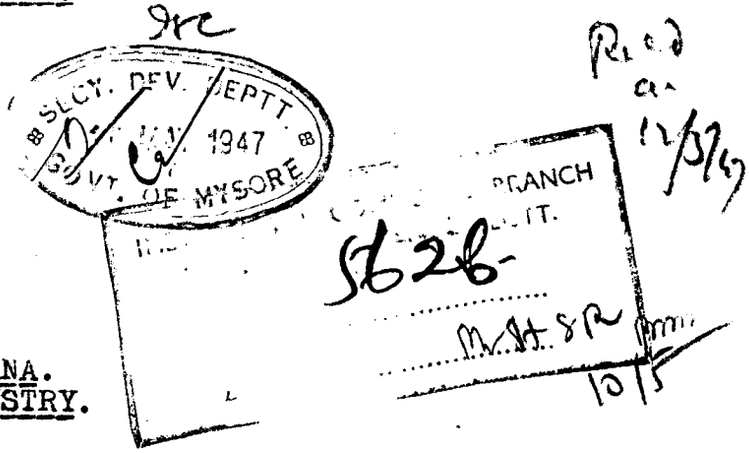
TELEGRAMS: "MINERALS"

*Chairman:*
MAJOR C. B. OAKLEY, V.D.,
A.M.I.M.E. & M.I.M. & M.E.

"OAKLIPURAM"

*Bangalore City* 9th. May 194 7.

AGRICULTURAL DEPARTMENT.




The Secretary, to Government,
Development Department,
Government of Mysore,
The Secretariate,
BANGALORE.

Dear Sir,

AGAVE SISALANA.
SISAL FIBRE INDUSTRY.

In acknowledging the receipt of your letter No:D6794 of the 7th. instant to Mr. J.F.Walke, on the above subject, we attach hereto extracts from a scheme which was put up by Mr.J.S.Quin, Adviser on Rope Supplies to the Government of India, which has reference to the subject of the Sisal Fibre Industry and which may be of some interest to you.

Yours faithfully,

for Chairman.

# SCHEME FOR A 5000 ACRE SISAL PLANTATION IN MYSORE STATE.

## I. INTRODUCTION.-

1. This scheme was drawn up at the suggestion of Mr.J.S.Quin, Adviser on Rope Supplies, and in collaboration with Major C.B.Oakley of Oaklipuram, Bangalore, who has done a great deal of pioneering work for the development of sisal in India, particularly in Mysore.

2. The Mysore State Authorities had from time to time been approached to consider the question of developing the sisal fibre industry, but so far nothing concrete has materialised on their side.

3. It was decided some time back to submit a complete scheme to the Mysore Durbar for their consideration.

## II. OBJECT OF THE SCHEME.-

4. The object of the scheme was to establish a large plantation of 5000 acres in the State of Mysore, and to develop the sisal fibre industry on a commercial scale with the intention of meeting India's requirements of sisal fibre for cordage and other purposes, Mysore being considered one of the most ideal centres for the development of this fibre.

5. Samples taken from experimental plots in Mysore and other parts of India have proved that the fibre is equal in quality to the imported material or that produced in other parts of the world.

6. The British Government not long ago had given an undertaking to purchase the entire output of sisal fibre from East Africa. This appears to be an indication that there will be a considerable demand for sisal for several years to come.

## III. GENERAL PLAN.-

7. It was intended to float a limited company for the production of the fibre as a commercial proposition, and the Mysore Durbar was to have been approached for the grant of ~~the grant of~~ a block of land on a suitable lease.

8. The question of raising the capital required was to have been taken up by the Adviser on Rope Supplies separately with the Mysore Durbar.

## IV. CLIMATIC AND AGRICULTURAL CONSIDERATIONS.

### CLIMATE.-

9. The data on the climatic elements of East Africa have been collected and extracts of these have been prepared of the important sisal areas and correlated with those of Mysore, and from data given it will appear that the climate is more or less similar in character. Hence it may safely be assumed that sisal can be successfully cultivated in the State from a meterological standpoint.

10. SITE.-

In the selection of a site, the following points would have to be borne in mind.

Quality of land.
Rainfall and distribution.
Proximity of railhead.
Nature of roads connecting the railhead.
Availability of water for irrigation and needs of the factory.
Availability of cheap electric power.
Availbility of cheap labour.

THE LOCALITY SHOULD BE HEALTHY.

11. The site for the plantation should be very carefully considered, and this would play an important part towards the success of the scheme.

LAND.-

12. The Agave Sisalana is a hardy plant and it thrives over a wide range of soils provided they are well drained. It is very susceptible to wate - logging.

LAYOUT.-

13. The question of layout can only be decided when the site is finally selected. One of the main considerations is that the site of the factory should be central in order to reduce the distance as far as possible for transporting the green leaves from the plantation to the factory for decortication.

PLANTING.-

14. It is assumed that forest lands would be taken over for the estate. This would mean that lands would have to be cleared of forests, and preferably put in good heart before actually planting them up with sisal.

SEED MATERIAL.-

15. There should be no difficulty in obtaining seed material for planting each year. It may be necessary in the early stages to import suckers from some of the other sisal estates in India, but in this connection Major Oakley has at present a large number of small plants of a height of between 6" to 30" on his nurseries at Sinduvalli, which may be estimated at about 150,000, and these would contribute to commencing a plantation. If transport arrangements are easy, a large number of matured plants could also be included, which in two or three years would pole and thus give large crops of seedlings or bulbils.

V. MACHINERY AND EQUIPMENT.-

16. GENERAL.-

In the absence of up-to-date information on the latest development of machinery and general equipment it has been difficult to prepare an accurate estimate of requirements for the estate.

17. The machinery and equipment proposed for the estate have been divided up under three broad heads namely:-

Plantation equipment.
Decorticating machinery.
Transport equipment.

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G&C 392-44-12 Urgent

G. R. S. App. F. G. 3.

GENERAL AND REVENUE SECRETARIAT.

(*Continuation sheet draft form.*)

D.7590-2.

No. [illegible]
The R. C.
Establishment
Subj. ~~Starting~~ of a
Sisal fibre industry
in the State

Sir,

I am directed to state that Major C.B Oakley, Acclimatisation, B. Coy has approached Government in connection with the above scheme & In this connection he has suggested the formation of a Joint Stock Co. for the purpose and ~~Private~~ a block of forest land of 5000 acres in suitable area, preferably in Hunsur & Periyapatna Taluks, ~~every~~ required ~~would~~ be necessary. It ~~would be~~ is necessary to ~~As~~ ascertain whether 5000 acres of land are available either in one block or a number of blocks within easy reach of the factory to be established.

I am to request, therefore, to be so good as

WD 03603—GPB—15,000—8-7-35

as to ~~have the matter~~ investigated

investigated in consultation
with the Chief Conservator
of Forests ~~&~~ Major Oakley
whether the land is required is available
& if so on what terms it
may be leased to any Company
that may be formed

A copy of this letter is also being
sent to the Chief Conservator
of Forests for necessary action
in consultation with you.

The favour of an early
Report is requested.

Yours etc

Sd/- 18/6

18/6 Secy

Copy forwarded to Chief Conservator
of Forests in Mysore, Bangalore
for favour of ~~favour~~ of information & necessary
~~favour~~ action. & DY, DFE

Sd/- 18/6

18/6 Secy

Sd

5/6/47

Asst 5/6/47

20

**GOVERNMENT OF HIS HIGHNESS THE MAHARAJA OF MYSORE.**

No. D 7390-2

**General and Revenue Secretariat,**

*Dated, Bangalore ...19th June, 1947.*

FROM

*The ~~Chief~~ Secretary to the Government of His Highness the Maharaja of Mysore.*
Development Department.

To

The Revenue Commissioner in Mysore,

Bangalore.

SIR,

Subject:- Establishment of a sisal fibre industry in the State.

I am directed to state that Major C. B. Oakley, Cubbonpet, Bangalore City, has approached Government in connection with the above scheme and has suggested the formation of a Joint Stock Company for the purpose and has stated that a block of forest land of 5000 acres in suitable areas, preferably in Hassan and Periyapatna Taluks, may be required. It is necessary in the first instance to ascertain whether 5000 acres of land are available either in one block or a number of blocks within easy reach of the factory to be established.

I am to request you, therefore, to be so good as to investigate in consultation with the Chief Conservator of Forests and Major Oakley whether the land required is available and if so on what terms it may be leased to any company that may be formed.

A copy of this letter is also being sent to the Chief Conservator of Forests for necessary action in consultation with you.

The favour of an early report is requested.

I have the honour to be,
Sir,
Your most obedient servant,

Sd/- C. E. Noronha,

Secretary to Government,
Development Department.

P.T.O.

Memo No. D. 2591

Copy of the foregoing is forwarded with compliments, to the Chief Conservator of Forests in Mysore, Bangalore, for information and necessary action.

By Order,
Sd/- C. E. Noronha,

Secretary to Government,
Development Department.

Memo No. D 35-42

Copy forwarded with compliments, to the Director of Industries & Commerce in Mysore, Bangalore.

By Order,

R. M. Vaidhyanathan 9/6
for Secretary to Government,
Development Department.

D&C 392-44-12

# OAKLEY DUNCAN & Co. Ltd.,

42
D&C

*MINE OWNERS, MINING MECHANICAL ENGINEERS*

TELEGRAMS: "MINERALS"

"OAKLIPURAM"

*Chairman:*
MAJOR C. B. OAKLEY, V.D.,
A.M.I.M.E. & M.I.M. & M.E.

*Bangalore City* 30. 6. 1947.

C.E.Noronha Esq; M.A.
Secretary to Government Development Department,
Government of Mysore,
The Secretariat, BANGALORE.

SECY. DEV. DEPT. 2. JUL. 1947 GOVT. OF MYSORE

5409/5279

Dear Mr. Noronha,

We wrote you fully on the 24th of April on the subject of Sisal, but have received no reply. I am enclosing a brief sketch of a scheme for 5,000 acres Sisal Plantation in the Mysore State. This being what you wrote for.

I have certain modofications to propose, such as, estates of I,O acres suitably placed in each district.

Co-operation by the railway for their hedges to be specially ten and and improvement in the D.P.W. Road hedges, as well as co-operation with the villagers for improvement of their hedges and the factory either buying them or repaying for the leaves brought to the factory in cash or fibre, suitable for their equipment.

15
7/7

I have had this view for some time, and in erecting the Decorticator which is lying at Sinduvalli I have placed it on a heavy girder on which it could be moved to different districts periodically , say, six months to a year until the growth of the leaf justify a permanent machine in each district. The advan--tage that I clain for this scheme over a 5,000 acre plot are that you provide work for the greatest number spread over the State, and instead of having to create a new labour force you employ a percentage of the population evenly distributed and causing the minimum upheavel in other activities of agriculture.

While this arrangement id in progress if the Government still desire for the larger scheme (5,000acres scheme) that could be started, but my view is that the competition would show in which district extension is most advisable. I find that Bangalore seems to excel in the growth of Sisal, and I find that considerable development in railway hedges exists between white-field and Krishnarajapuram, and between 1944 and 1947 military facilities have been created by way of buildings and fencings, which would facilitate the ~~start~~ starting of the Bangalore district effort.

It has then to be decided whether the effort shall be purely State or whether the Government would support a State-aided venture with the usual Directors elected by them and shares taken by them in such an enterprise, without the State having a great interest in it, I fear it would not appeal to the investor. The past history of the Fibre business in India as compared with other producing countries would, I fear, not create a keen desire for investment, long delayed as the return would be, the figures show in the Madras prospectus show a handsome return for the future but weary waiting in the process. I am ready to co-operate and if necessary conduct or assist a promotor in conducting the preliminaries. And with the machinery in the country at my command and the nurseries I have put down during the last 12 years, I could materially hasten the company to a state of production.

I am at present putting out nurseries between Arnichoke and Periyapatam at my Jodhi village of Abalthy of over 1,000 acres, and also nurseries near Kadakola and in Bangalore City ready, to push forward when the necessary support is secured.

Further I should like the opportunity of discussing the matter with you.

Yours sincerely,

C S Addams

SCHEME FOR A 5,000 ACRE SISAL PLANTATION IN MYSORE STATE.

INTRODUCTION.

1. This scheme was drawn up in collaboration with Major C.B.Cakley of Cakleypuram, Bangalore, who has done a great deal of pioneering work for the development of Sisal in India, particularly in Mysore.

II. OBJECT OF THE SCHEME.

2. The object of the scheme among others was to establish a large plantation of 5,000 acres, and to develop the sisal fibre industry on a commercial basis with the intention of meeting India's requirements of sisal fibre for cordage and other purposes.

3. Samples taken from experimental plots in Mysore and other parts of India have proved that the fibre is equal in quality to the imported material or that produced in other parts of the world.

4. The British Government not long ago had given an undertaking to purchase the entire output of sisal fibre from East Africa. This appears to be an indication that there will be considerable demand for sisal for several years to come. Sara has ceased production and there is a general and world wide shortage of sisal fibre.

III. GENERAL PLAN.

5. It was intended to float a limited company for the production of the fibre as a commercial proposition, and with, if possible, subsides from Government of India and others, and suitable sites for operations are under consideration.

IV. CLIMATIC AND AGRICULTURAL CONSIDERATIONS.

6. (a) Climate.
The data on the climatic elements of East Africa have been collected and extracts of these have been prepared of the important sisal areas and correlated with those of South India, and from data given it will appear that the climate is more or less similar in character. Hence it may safely be assumed that sisal can be successfully cultivated from a meterological standpoint.

(b)
In the selection of a site, the following points have to be borne in mind;-

1. Quality of land.
2. Rainfall and distribution.
3. Proximity of railhead.
4. Nature of roads connecting the railhead.
5. Availability of water for irrigation and needs of the factory.
6. Availability of cheap electric power.
7. Availability of cheap labour.

(c)
The locality should be healthy. The site for the plantation should be very carefully considered, and this would play an important part towards the success of the scheme.

(d) Land.
Sisal is a hardy plant and it thrives over a wide range of soils provided they are well drained. It is very susceptible to water-loggi

(e) Layout.
The question of layout can only be decided when the site is finally selected. One of the main considerations is that the site of the factd

should be central in order to reduce the distance as far as possible for transporting the green leaves from the plantation to the factory for decortication.

(f) Planting.
May be necessary that forest lands would be taken over for the estate. This would mean that lands would have to be cleared of forests, and preferably put in good heart before actually planting them up with sisal.

V. MACHINERY AND EQUIPMENT.

7. General view of the uncertainty of future prices.
In the absence of up-to-date information on the latest development of machinery and general equipment it has been difficult tp prepare an accurate estimate of requirements for the estate, but these will be made available by approximation, but are indicative of arable costs.

The machinery and equipment proposed for the estate have been divided up under three broad heads - namely;-

1. Plantation equipment.
2. Decorticating machinery.
3. Transport equipment.

VI. SEED MATERIAL.

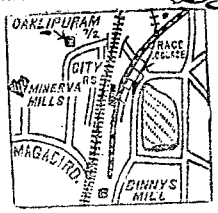
8. Major Cakley has at present a large number of small plants of a height of between 6" to 30" on his nurseries at Sinduvalli, which may be estim-ated at about 150,000, and these would contribute to commencing a plantation. If transport arrangements are easy, a large number of matured plants could also be included, which in two or three years would pole, and thus give large crops of seedlings or bulbils.

---

TELEGRAMS:- MINERALS
MAJOR C. B. OAKLEY, A.M.I.M.E., & M.I.M. & M.E.
*General Manager*:
MYSORE CHROMITE LTD.,
*Managing Director*:
OAKLEY, DUNCAN & Co. LTD.,
*Director*:
OAKLEY, BOWDEN & Co. (MADRAS) LTD., MADRAS
BOWDEN, OAKLEY & Co., LTD., LONDON
LITTLE'S ORIENTAL BALM & PHARMACEUTICALS LTD., MADRAS
TABLETS LTD., MADRAS
*Proprietor*:
SINDUVALLI FARM, KADAKOLA, P.O.

GRC. 392-44-13

CODES
A. B. C. 5TH EDITION
BENTLEYS CODE
UNIVERSAL TRADE CODE




OAKLIPURAM,

Bangalore City 14th July 1947

Dear Mr. Naronha,

Issue left for C. 6/7

With reference to our interview of the Sunday week, I am sending you a copy of the Government Order No.5369 dated 14th Dec.1918 with the comments by the Revenue Commissioner. I have not yet heard from the Chief Conservator of Forests or the Rev. Commissioner but I will take an opportunity of calling on them. I am wondering whether you would care to select Whitefield-Gunjur area and if so we might arrange to run out there with anyone else who is interested in the matter. 39 17/7

Yours sincerely,

CB Oakley

I am here till 20th.
Wd you prefer Sunday next?
my car is available

GOVERNMENT OF HIS HIGHNESS THE
MAHARAJA OF MYSORE.

---

G.O. No:5369-77-1 & C.169-18-3.
dated 14th. December 1918.
********

CULTIVATION OF SISAL HEMP IN THE

S T A T E .

---

Government are pleased to direct that the following concessions be granted for encouraging the cultivation of Sisal Hemp in the State:-

(a) The land to be free of assessment for five years and then assessed at progressive rates leading to full assessment from the eleventh year.

(b) The land to be planted up in full in five years.

(c) The land to be liable to be resumed if it is used for any other purpose within twenty years of the grant.

COMMENT BY THE REVENUE COMMISSIONER:-

It appears to me that the principal reason why Sisal Hemp cultivation has not been taken up in Mysore although the plant grows readily enough and yields a high quality of fibre are as follows :-

1. Six years must elapse before any return can be expected.
2. The extraction of the fibre by machinery necessitates operation on a large scale and the investment of a large capital on machinery and plant.

# SISAL HEMP FIBRE.

Our comments on the report of the Panel on Coir, and other fibre industries - vide "Commerce" dated 21st. June - have evidently attracted the attention of Mr.J.K.Sircar, formerly Fibre Development Officer, Government of India, who sends us his emactions to the Panel Report. Mr.Sircar, it may be mentioned here, continues to evince a keen interest in the fibre industry and he wrote an article on sisal hemp plantation industry in our journal, as far back as in August 1946.

In his communication to us, Mr.Sircar recalls that, in his momorandum to us on "Indian fibres other than cotton and jute", submitted to the Central Government in 1945, he recommended the development of sisal at suitable localities, since experience shows that, although agave can be grown anywhere, it has to be grown in suitable soil and under appropriate climatic conditions to make it a commercial proposition. The recommendations contained in his memorandum could not obviously be implemented during war-time, and Mr. Sircarrightly says that, now that the war is over, the Government should consider the need for developing the industry on modern lines.

He suggests that the State should undertake the cultivation of sisal, hemp and also make suitable areas available, on easy terms, to intending planters. The State should also set up nurseries, from which suckers may be supplied to planters, and afford facilities for importing automatic machinery from overseas countries. The best way perhaps would be, according to Mr.Sircar, for the State to start its own sisal plantations and also manufacture commercial commodities from sisal to demonstrate the profitable nature of the entire scheme to the public. He asks: "Will the Government, whether Central or Provincial Governments, or the Indian States Governments which are taking up post-war developmentwork,look into this important, but much neglected industry?"

It is to be hoped that Mr.Sircar's appeal for sustained State effort in establishing the sisal plantation industry will command sympathetic attention from the Indian Governments, at least for the sake of the strategic value of this industry.

---

From "Commerce" of the 12th. July 1947.

~~DRC 129-44-99~~
DRC 392-44-14

Mr.C.E.Noronha, M.A.,
Development Secretary
to Government.

16th July 1947.

D.S. 3

Thank you for your letter of the 14th instant and its enclosures.

You might suggest to the Revenue Commissioner, when you see him, a visit to the Whitefield-Gunjur area. I don't think it is necessary for me to see this or any other area at this stage.

DRAFT. 16/7

Major C.B. Oakley, V.D.,
A.M.I.M.E. & M.I.M., & M.E.,
General Manager, Mysore Chromite, Ltd,
Oaklipuram, Bangalore City.

258 392-46-IV

I & C 392-46-15

759

SECY. DFT. 14. AUG. 1947 GOVT. OF MYSORE

GOVERNMENT OF MYSORE.

OFFICE OF THE REVENUE COMMISSIONER
IN MYSORE.

No. C.2.4793/46-47.

Dated, Bangalore, 13th August 1947.

To

C.E. Noronha, Esq., M.A.,
Development Secretary to the Government
of His Highness the Maharaja of Mysore,
Bangalore.

Sir,

Subject:- Establishment of a Sisal Fibre Industry in the State -

Adverting to your letter No. D.7590 dated 19th June 1947 on the above subject, I have the honour to forward herewith for favour of information copies of the marginally noted letters - - - received from the Chief - - Conservator of Forests and the Deputy Commissioner, Mysore District, I have requested the - - Deputy Commissioner, Mysore District, to furnish the particulars of survey numbers of large blocks of land in consultation with the Conservator of Forests, Mysore Circle. On receipt of his report, a further communication will be made to you.

1) No. M.192-1074/46 dated 16-7-1947 from the Chief Conservator of - - Forests in Mysore.

2) No. C2.237/47 dated 6-8-1947 from the Deputy Commissioner, Mysore District.

I have the honour to be,
Sir,
Your most obedient servant,

for Assistant Commissioner
Revenue Commissioner.
Absent from Station

Letter No. M.192-1074/46 dated 16th July 1947 from the Chief Conservator of Forests in Mysore, Bangalore, to the Revenue Commissioner in Mysore, Bangalore.

-

Establishment of Sisal Fibre Industry in the State -

-

Referring to letter No. D.7590 dated 19th instant, addressed to you by the Secretary to Government, Development Department, and copies to me, I have the honour to state that the - - industry requires 5,000 acres of cultivable -- land. Such vast acres of cultivable land do not exist in State Forests and it has naturally to be found from Government waste lands outside State Forests and by acquiring cultivable - - - private lands if necessary. A few acres from a State Forest is all that might perhaps be -- spared and that too if it is necessary for - - giving a practical boundary to the block selected outside the Forest for this special cultivation. If as I presume the matter is going to be referred to the Deputy Commissioner, Mysore, he can consult the Conservator of Forests, Mysore Circle, Mysore, who has been written to by me separately.

-

Letter No. C2.237/47 dated 6th August 1947 from the Deputy Commissioner, Mysore District, to the Revenue Commissioner in Mysore, Bangalore.

-

Subject:- Establishment of a Sisal Fibre Industry in the State -

-

With reference to your letter No. C2.4793/ 46-47 dated 10-7-1947 on the above subject, I have the honour to state that the lands applied for viz., 5,000 acres are available in the Hunsur

P.T.O.

Hunsur and Periapatna Taluks and the question of grant may be considered in consultation with the Forest Department and Amrit Mahal Kavals in - - - respect of lands included in the State Forest and Amrit Mahal Kaval limits.

The particulars of survey numbers, etc., of such large blocks have been furnished to the - - representatives of Jai Sri Textiles Company, Ltd., in connection with their proposed cultivation of Flax.

"Copies"

Recorded

For Revenue Commissioner.

YRC 392-44-46.

1102
YRC.

YRC

GOVERNMENT OF MYSORE.

42
255
959
D.P.I.

OFFICE OF THE REVENUE COMMISSIONER
IN MYSORE.

No. C.2.4793/46-47. Dated, Bangalore, 4nd September'47.

Encl 3

To

5 SEP 1947

C.E. Noronha, Esq., M.A.,
Development Secretary to the Government
of His Highness the Maharaja of Mysore,
Bangalore.

Sir,

Subject:- Establishment of a Sisal Fibre Industry in the State -

In continuation of this Office letter of even number dated 14th August 1947 on the above subject, I have the honour to forward herewith a copy of letter No. C2.237/47 dated the 22nd August 1947 together with that of its enclosure received from the Deputy Commissioner stating that the State Forest areas in Hunsur and Periyapatna Taluks are not suitable and fit for Sisal Hemp cultivation except - - - - Arabbithittu State Forest which cannot be made available for the purpose in toto. It is - - reported that steps are taken to ascertain if any suitable areas outside the State Forests near Koppa are available for the purpose.

171
879

On receipt of a report from the Deputy Commissioner, a further communication will be sent to you.

I have written to the Deputy Commissioner to contact Major Oakley and submit his report.

P.T.O.

Letter No. C2.237/47 dated 22nd August 1947 from the Deputy Commissioner, Mysore District, to the Revenue Commissioner in Mysore, Bangalore.

-

Subject:- Establishment of Sisal Fibres Industry in the State -

-

With reference to your memo No. C2.4793/46-7 dated 13-8-1947 on the above subject, I have the honour to forward herewith a copy of letter No. M2.38/47-48 dated 14-8-1947 of the Conservator of Forests, Mysore Circle, stating that the State Forest areas in Hunsur and - - Periyapatna Taluk are not suitable and fit for Sisal Hemp Cultivation except the Arabhithithe State Forest, which is about 5.29 square miles, but that it cannot be made available for the purpose in toto. Whether any suitable areas outside the State Forests near Koppa are available is being ascertained from the Amildar, and the same will be intimated shortly.

-

Letter No. M2.38/47 dated 14th August 1947 from the Conservator of Forests, Mysore Circle, Mysore, to the Deputy Commissioner, Mysore - - District, Mysore.

-

Re: establishment of Sisal Fibre Industry in the State applied for by Major C.B. Oakley, Oaklipuram, Bangalore City.

-

In forwarding herewith for your kind reference a copy of letter No. 7590 dated the 19th June 1947 addressed by the Secretary to Government, Development Department, to the Revenue Commissioner in Mysore, regarding the above, I have the honour to state that there are no - - suitable areas fit for sisal hemp cultivation in the State Forests of Hunsur and Periyapatna Taluks except perhaps Arabbithittu State Forest of 5.29 square miles in extent in Hunsur Forest

P.T.

forest range. This area cannot however be made available for the purpose in toto, and it would ~~be~~ at ~~least~~ best be possible to allot 100 to 200 acres out of it for the purpose. In the circumstances, I request you kindly to let me know early, if suitable areas outside the State Forests near Koppa can be made available for meeting the needs of the - - - industry.

The favour of an early reply is ~~XXX~~ requested.

-

"Copies"

Recorded

For Revenue Commissioner.

6

Copy of letter No.M2-38/47 dated 14th August 1947 from the Conservator of Forests, Mysore Circle, Mysore to the Deputy Commissioner Mysore District, Mysore.

---

Re: Establishment of Sisal Fibre Industry in the State applied for by Major C.B.Oakley, Oaklipuram, Bangalore City.

---

In forwarding herewith for your kind reference a copy of letter No.7590 dated the 19th June 1947 addressed by the Secretary to Govt. Development Department, to the Revenue Commissioner in Mysore regarding the above, I have the honour to state that there are no suitable areas fit for sisal hemp cultivation in the State Forests of Hunusr and Periyapatna Taluks except perhaps Arabbithittu State Forest of 5.29 square miles in extent in Hunsur Forest Range. This area cannot however be made available for the purpose in toto, and it would at best be possible to allot 100 to 200 ac. out of it for the purpose In the circumstances, I request you kindly to let me know early, if sutable areas outside the State Forests near Kopba can be made available for meeting the needs of the Industry.

The Favour of an early reply is requested.

---

The Enclosure.

Re: Establishment of a Sisal Fibre Industry in the State.

I am directed to state that Major C.B.Oakley, Oakli uram, Bangalore City, has approached Government in connection with the above scheme and has suggested the formation of Joint Stock Company for the purpose and has stated that a block of forest land of 5000 acres in sutable areas preferably in Hunsur and Periyalatna Taluks may be required. It is necessary in the first instance to ascertain whether 5000 acres of land are available either in one block or a number of blocks within easy reach of the factory to be established.

I am t request you, therefore, to be so good as to investigate in consultation with the Chief Conservator of Forests and Major Oakley whether the and required is available and if so on what terms it may be leased to any company that may be formed.

A copy of this is also being sent to the Chief Conservator of Forests for necessary action in consultation with you.

The favour of an early report is requested.

---

'C O P Y'

FOR DEPUTY COMMISSIONER,
Mysore District.

# SCHEME FOR A 5000 ACRE SISAL PLANTATION IN MYSORE STATE.

## I. INTRODUCTION.

1. This scheme has been drawn up at the suggestion of Mr.J.S.Quin Advisor on Rope Supplies and in collaboration with Major C.B.Oakley V.D., of Oaklipuram, Bangalore, who has done a great deal of pioneering work for the development of sisal in India, particularly in Mysore.

2. The Mysore State Authorities have from time to time been approached to condider the question of developing sisal; but so far nothing concrete has materialised from their side.

3. It has recently been decided to submit a complete scheme to the Mysore Durbar for their consideration.

## II. OBJECT OF THE SCHEME.

4. The object of the scheme is to establish a large plantation of 5000 acres in Mysore State and to develop sisal on a commercial scale with the intention of meeting India's requirements of sisal fibre for cordage and other other purposes. Mysore is considered one of the most ideal centres for the development of this fibre.

5. The peacetime requirements of sisal fibre in India is roughly 2500 tons per annum. Apart from the odd 100 tons produced in the country the balance has to be imported from abroad.

6. Moreover, itbwould be possible to export the fibre samples of fibre extracted from experiment plots in Mysore and other parts of India have proved that fibre equal in quality to the imported material can be produced without much difficulty.

7. Just recently the British Government have given an undertaking to purchase the entire output of sisal fibre from East Africa at present prices for the next two years, after the cessation of the war against Japan. This appears to be an indication that there will be a considerable demand for sisal for several years to come.

## III. GENERAL PLAN.-

8. It is intended to float a limited company for the production of the fibre as a commercial proposition. The Mysore Durbar is to be approached for the grant of a compact block of land on a suitable lease.

9. The question of raising the capital required will be taken up by the Advisor on Rope Supplies separately with the Mysore Durbar.

## IV. CLIMATIC AND AGRICULTURAL CONSIDERATIONS.

(a) Climate.

10. The data on the climatic elements of East Africa have been collected and extracts of these have been prepared of the important sisal areas and correlated with those of Mysore. In this connection Table IV may be seen. From data given it will appear that the climate is more or less similar in character. Hence it may safely be assumed that sisal can be successfully cultivated in the State from a meterological standpoint.

(b)

11. In the seclection of the site, the following points should be borne in mind.

1. Quality of land.
2. Rainfall and distribution.
3. Proximity to rail-head.
4. Nature of roads connecting the rail-head.
5. Availability of water for irrigation and needs of the factory.
6. Availability of cheap electric power would be an advantage.
7. Availability of cheap land.

8. **Locality** should be healthy.

12. The site for the plantation should be very carefully considered, and it will play an important part towards the success of the scheme.

(c) Land.

13. Aisal is a hardy plant and it thrives over a wide range of soils provided they are well drained. It is very susceptible. to water-logging.

(d) Layout.

14. The question of layout can only be decided when the site is finally selected. One of the main considerations is that the site of the factory should be central in order to reduce the distances as far as possible for transporting the green leaves from the plantation to the factory for decortication.

(e) Planting.

15. It is assured that forest lands will be taken over for the estate. This will mean that lands will have to be cleared of forests laid out, and preferably put in good heart before actually planting them up with sisal.

16. Two schedules for planting up the estate have been prepared. Schedule I corresponds with the estimates of expenditure in statement II.

17. The programme outlined in this schedule provides for the clearing of two blocks nemely A and B, and in planting the former up with sisal while the latter is sown down for green manuring in the first year.

18. To clear two blocks comprising of 1250 acres and to get them prepared for planting and green manuring respectively will require a huge labour force. Hence in practice it may not be possible to follow up such a large programme of work in the first year. The determining factor will be availability of labour, as an alternative, schedule II has been drawn up to provide for the clearing of one block each year, but this extends the planting cycle to 10 years instead of 8 years, as in schedule I.

19. The object of splitting up the plantation into 8 blocks has been based on the life of the sisal plant which is approximately 8 years. It will mean that by the time the last block is planted up, the first block will be ready to replant. Besises a block of 625 acres is considered a suitable area to handle, but there is no necessity to adhere to such an area or programme.

20. If the facilities exist, the plantation could be planted up in half the period or less by taking up larger sreas of land each year for planting. The sooner it is possible to plant up the estate, the quicker will it be to produce fibre, and corresponding earlier return on the money invested.

(c) [illegible]

(d) Income

(e) Taxation.

(f) Miscellaneous.

PLANTING SCHEDULE I (5000 acres)

| YEAR | Block A 625 acres | Block B 625 acres | Block C 625 acres | Block D 625 | Block E 625 | Block F 525 | Block G 625 | Block H 625 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1945 | Clear forest layout plant sisal | Clear forest G.M. | forest | Forest | Forest | Forest | Forest | Forest |
| | | | | | | G.M.Green manuring with sunhemp. | | |
| 1946 | | Plant sisal- | clear forest G.M. | - Forest | Forest | Forest | Forest | Forest |
| 1947 | | Plant- sisal | Clear forest G.M. | Forest | Forest | Forest | Forest | |
| 1948 | | | Plant sisal- | Clear forest G.M. | Forest | Forest | Forest | |
| 1949 | | | | Plant - sisal | Clear forest G.M. | Forest | Forest | |
| 1950 | | | | | Plant - sisal | Clear forest G.M. | Forest | |
| 1951 | | | | | | Plant - sisal | Clear forest G.M. | G.M. |
| 1952 | | | | | | | | Plant sisal |
| 1953 | Replant - sisal | - sisal | - sisal | - sisal | - sisal | | | |

(f) Seed Material

21. There should be no difficulty in obtaining seed material for planting the blocks each year. It may be necessary in the early stages to import suckers from some of the other sisal estates in India. After the third year the plantation should be more or less self sufficient in this respect from the outgrowth of suckers, and later from the bulbils of mature plants.

V. Machinery and Equipment.

(a) General.

22. In the absence of up-to-date information on the latest development on machinery and general equipment it has been difficult to prepare an accurate estimate of requirements for the estate.

23. The machinery and equipment proposed for the estate have been divided up under three broad heads namely:

1. Plantation equipment.
2. Decorticating machinery.
3. Transport equipment.

24. A reference to each of the above items is given below:

(b) Plantation Equipment.

25. Under this head, all the equipment required for the cultivation and irrigation of sisal have been provided.

26. It will be seen that 3 sets of tractor cultivation units have been provided, together with a reserve of bullock power for interculturing and other cultural operations where tractors cannot be used with advantage.

27. Ten pairs of bullocks have been provided complete with cultivating implements and carts for each block. It is possible that this allotment may have to be increased if local conditions justify it.

28. A sum of Rs.20,000 has been provided for irrigation equipment. This amount should cover the expenditure under this head.

(c) Decorticating Machinery.

29. The number of decorticating units required has been based on the capacity of the Robey Machine at the Beckfield Estate which is 1½ tons of fibre per day of 8 hours. If this unit is run of a 3 shift cycle it should be capable of handling 1350 tons over a period of 300 working days per annum. We therefore consider that two units will be necessary to provide sufficient reserve of capacity in times of stress or with a view to possible expansion in the future.

30. A provision of Rs.1½ lakhs has been made for decorticating machinery and buildings, for the factory. We have estimated a sum of Rs.25,000 for each decorticator, the balance to cover the cost for brushing and baling plant and for the buildings.

31. It may be worthwhile considering the question of purchase of the existing Robey Decorticator at Beckfield and the Irene machinery at Sinduvalli which are the property of Major C.B.Oakley. Both are considered to be in working order, but are in need of thorough overhaul.

32. Messrs.Robey & Company, it is understood, have designed a portable power decorticator of the same capacity of their stationery plants. The former are reported to be very successful in which case they may completely revolutionise the systems now in vogue for extracting fibre on a large scale and may save considerable expense in buildings and transport of green leaves to the factory.

(d) Transport.

(33) A light railway system for transport of from the plantation generally considered necessary. A pr Rs.1,93,000 has been made. In the absence of any inform would serve our purpose, it is possible that the estimate may require modification.

VI. Economic Aspect.

(34) The detail of estimated expenditure and returns have been shown in statements I, II and II(a). Statement I covers the estimate of expenditure over a period of 16 years in laying out and running the plantation. It will be seen that from 1953 onwards, the expenditure on the estate is constant. The salaries of the Supervisory and Managerial staff and the capital expenditure for equipping the estate have been omitted from statement I and included in Statement II.

(35) The estimates for the cultural operating have been arrived at in consultation with Major Oakley of Bangalore. The estimated costs for items 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6 have been fixed provisionally; they are likely to vary under different working conditions, but our estimates are expected to come within a close range of the actual costs.

(36) It may be seen from the statement, that the total expenditure for planting up the first cycle of sisal plants comes to Rs.13,00,000.

STATEMENT II

(37) This statement covers the expenditure, both capital and recurring, and also the returns expected every year over a period of 24 years.

(38) The annual expenditure from the first year, i.e., 1945 fluctuates each year between the limits of Rs.2,24,850 in 1946 and Rs.6,70,475 in the year 1948. From 1955 onwards the expenditure of Rs.6,19,475 remains constant.

(39) The overall cost of extraction of fibre has been fixed at an estimated maximum of Rs.140 per ton. This is considered to be a fair approximation to the cost that could be expected under actual working conditions in India.

(40) Details of the salaries and grades of pay of the supervisory and Managerial staff of the proposed plantation are given in the appendix to Statement II and II (a).

(41) The annual yield of sisal fibre per acre has been estimated at ¾ ton. It is considered to be a modest estimate.

(42) Under the Indian conditions of growth, we have allowed for 700 sisal plants per acre, though in East Africa and other sisal growing countries, the number is near about 900. The average number of mature leaves that a plant will yield annually has been taken at a low figure of 40 though it is considered that a single sisal plant is capable of producing about 60 mature leaves per annum. Consistent with the low estimation of the number of plants per acre, and the yield of leaves, the weight of the indivdual leaves has been fixed at 2 lbs. for the purpose of calculating the yield of fibre. It is expected from 100 lbs. of mature leaves.

(43) Such an uniformly low level of production is contemplated in the working of the Mysore Sisal schemes in order to obviate any tendency towards unwarranted optimism.

(44) The price per ton of prepared sisal fibre has been fixed at Rs.350/-./It is the considered opinion that it is a fair average price which may be expected in the world fibre market for

several years after the war.

(45) The annual returns from the first year of production, viz: 1948 amounting to Rs.1,64,062 increases gradually to Rs.8,20,310 in 1952 and thereafter it remains constant.

(46) Column 28 represents the loss of profit on the year's working costs, i.e., returns over expenditure. This statement does not take into consideration the Assets and Liabilities of the Estate which are shown in Statement II (a).

(47) From the year 1951, the estate would show a profit of Rs.76,398 rising to Rs.2,00,836 in the year 1955. The profits would remain constant from then onwards. The yearv 1952 records the maximum profits in any one single year. It must be borne in mind that these figures represent the profit per year and not profit.

(48) The figures in column 29 indicate the total net loss or profit each year. From 1951 onwards the profits shown in column 28 would be written off against the net loss each year up to the end of 1957. The object is to write off the total amount spent in starting the estate until it becomes a profitable running concern. From the year 1958 onwards, there will be a progressive increase in the profits in the succeeding years until the former reach Rs.20,55,515 at the end of 24 years, i.e., 1968 the period that in the final year a return of 15 - 19% on the total expenditure of Rs.135,31,375 may be expected.

STATEMENT II (A).

(49) This statement takes into account the total assests and liabilities each year, besides the profits or loss, as the case may be. The assets do not include the profits accured each year but represent the values of the extracting machinery, buildings, railway and miscellanious plantation equipment ( less 20% depreciation in each case plus the nominal value of the standing sisal crop.

(50) In the absence of reliable data or authentic litrature it is felt that whatever value we may arrive at with regard to the sisal crop should be regarded as only nominal. We have, for the purpose of framing the scheme, taken the value of the standing sisal crop to be 50% of the total recurring cost of cultivation and upkeep (columns 4 and 3) plus 50% of the cost of deforestation and laying out plantation (column 10). The nominal value thus arrived at each year is made to be progressive up to 1951, i.e., till the time the maximum number of "Blocks" come into production - after which it is kept constant at Rs.5,86,250.

(51) a close analysis of Statement II (a) will reveal that the plantation (Eight Block system) will suffer continuous and progressive net loss during the years 1945 to 1950 the last year showing the maximum limit of loss in one single year. The year 1951 is significient in respect of the assets of the concern. It will be seen from the Statement that the asset value of the plantation is the highest in that year. On the other hand, the liabilities reach the peak in the year 1948, i.e., in the I year of production.

(52) The actual financial status which gives an insight into the soundness or otherwise of the concern should be criterion in judging the merits of the plantation and this is arrived at in our statement by adjusting the total asset value every year against the net loss or profit and construing the liabilities each year as loss.

(53) Thus computed, it will be seen that the plantation (Eight Block system) takes ten years to establish itself as a profitable concern (See column 8 II (A).

In other words it will not prove to be a wholly solvent concern till the close of 1954. The foregoing facts should not appear discouraging when one bears in mind that Estate is capable of turning over a net profit of nearly 21 lakhs of rupees; and a very sound financial position of the Estate will exist at the end of only 24 years with the prospect of many prosperous years to follow. It should

| Two Blocks 2500 acres | A and B Each | Total Acreage 5000 | Two Blocks "a" & "b" 2500 acres | Total each actea- ge 5000 | Grand total 10,000 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|

| Year | Primary Scheme | | | Auxilary Scheme | | | | Total |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Year | Yielding blocks | Quantity in tons | Remarks | Year | Yielding blocks | Qtty in tons | Remarks | Out turn (Tons) |
| 1945 | - | - | Block A cleared and planted up | 1945 | - | - | - | - |
| 1946 | - | - | Block B cleared and planted up | 1946 | - | - | - | - |
| 1947 | - | - | - | 1947 | - | - | - | - |
| 1948 | A | 1875 | I year of production | 1948 | - | - | Block "a" cleared up planted up | 1875 |
| 1949 | AB | 3750 | | 1949 | - | | Block "b" cleared up and planted | 3750 |
| 1950 | AB | 3750 | | 1950 | - | | - | 3750 |
| 1951 | AB | 3750 | | 1951 | a | 1875 | I year of production | 5625AB |
| 1952 | AB | 3750 | | 1952 | ab | 3750 | | 5625ab |
| 1953 | B | 1875 | A planted up again from first bulbils | | ab | 3750 | | 5625ab |
| 1954 | Nil | - | B planted up again from first bulbils | 1954 | ab | 3750 | | 3750 ab |
| 1955 | A | 1875 | | 1955 | ab | 3750 | | 3750 ab |
| [redacted] | A | 1875 | | 1956 | b | 1875 | a planted up | 3750 Ab |
| 1957 | AB | 3750 | | 1957 | nil | 1875 | b planted up | 3750 |
| 1958 | AB | 3750 | | 1958 | nil | | - | 3750 |
| 1959 | AB | 3750 | | 1959 | a | 1875 | - | 5625 |
| 1960 | Ab | 3750 | | 1960 | ab | 3750 | | 7500 |
| 1961 | Nil | 1875 | A replanted | 1961 | ab | 3750 | | 5625 |
| 1962 | Nil | | B replanted | 1962 | ab | 3750 | | 3750 ab |

59. It will thus be seen that an uninterupted flow of fibres could be ensured. This alternative method may however require one or more additional decorticating units to cope up with the increased fibre production.

60. If for instance it is not possible to envisage a plantation of 10,000 acres, it is possible to overcome the drawback of no production in a plantation of 5000 acres if planted up. The plantation would then have 4 blocks of 1250 acres instead of 2 blocks of 2500 acres. This scheme therefore visualises a via media course as compared to the Eight-block and Two-Block systems. In the Four Block scheme, the planter will be in a happy position of having an unbroken flow of fibre every year with the advantage of added returns but the returns will however be less in proportion to the two block scheme, but it does overcome the main drawback referred to above.

## VII CONCLUSION.

61. The necessity for a sisal plantation in India now and in the post war years cannot be over-emphasised. Such a plantation will not only supply India's needs but would serve as a valuable source of high-grade fibre for export to other countries. It should in time to come more than justify its existence.

62. It is hoped that the tentative schemes that have been drawn up for starting a sisal plantation in Mysore State will impress favourably on those who are keen to establish a sisal industry in India, the soundness of the project.

63. It cannot be gainsaid that for making the scheme workable and later on, to make it a success, vision and enterprise amongst capitalists as well as a certain amount of co-ordination between the State and Private enterprise are absolutely necessary - A large-minded and progressive agricultural policy of the State would be just the ideal thing to help to make the scheme a success.

64. The time chosen for initiating a well-planned sisal industry in India both as a post war reconstructêdn measure and as an impetus for developing the economic resources of the country is none too early. It is earnestly hoped that sufficient money and the drive to initiate the scheme will be forthcoming to assist in the development and perfection of this fibre industry in India. If a plantation as has been contemplated should materialise soon, the day will not be far off when India should become a powerful competitor amongst the other important sisal-producing countries of the world.

## VIII ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS.

65. This scheme has taken a considerable time to complete due to circumstances beyond our control. The delay however is regretted.

66. A great deal of labour has been put into the working out of the estimates and in preparing the numerous statements accompanying the scheme. The credit for this goes to Mr.T.R.Krishna Murthy of Ordinance Laboratories, who was entirely responsible for this work under my direction. He also assisted me in completing the last two chapters.

67. I am also grateful to Mr.Quin, Advisor on Rope Supplies and Major C.B.Oakley for the valuable help given me in the preparation of the scheme.

(Signed) Lt.J.D.Berkeley-Hill,I.A.O.C.

DRAFT LETTER - Subject to alteration if necessary.

To,

The Dewan,
To the Government of His Highness the Maharajah of Mysore,
The Secretariate,
Bangalore.

From,

Major C.B.Oakley, V.D., A.M.I.M.E.,M.I.M., M.E.,
Oaklipuram,
Bangalore City.

Dear Sir,

THE SISAL FIBRE INDUSTRY.

In pursuance of the letter I have received from the Deputy Commissioner, Mysore District, No: C2-237/47 of the 1st. instant, a copy of which is attached to this letter, and in referring back to a paper submitted to the State by Mr. A. Chatterton in September 1918, on the subject of the cultivation of Sisal Hemp, a copy of which is also appended to this letter for your ready reference, I desire to place before you a short sketch whereby a plantation may be started in the State, possibly on the lines to some extent to those suggested by Mr. A. Chatterton, if a plan could be devised between your Government and myself, so that on the one hand a block of land could be provided which is suitably situated, that is, to give conveniences of roads and transport, and on the other hand, that I may be given the opportunity of bringing into use the large number of Agave Sisalana plants which I have on my different estates, the greater number being at Sinduvalli near Kadakola on the Mysore Railways, and in consequence, as aforesaid, to start a plantation which if it is located, too, in such a position so as to permit of its extension over a period of years, which is illustrated in Mr. Chatterton's paper, I have no doubt that in the course of time the plantation would prove to be a valuable industrial asset.

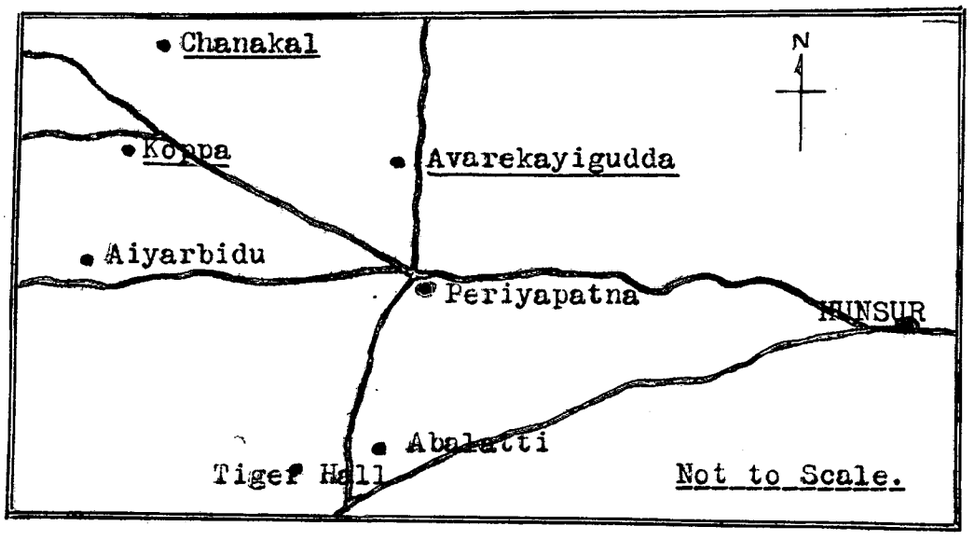
A project of this nature, of course, requires time, as explained by Mr.Chatterton in his paper, to produce returns, but as poling proceeds from year to year yielding possibly 200,000 bulbils or seedlings per annum, expansion would go forward apace to the desired aim of an industry on a large scale, which, however, has not been followed through in India as in other parts of the world.

SISAL

MEMORANDUM BY MR. J.F.WALKE RELATING TO MR. C.B.OAKLEY'S NOTE OF THE 10TH. SEPTEMBER 1947 ON THE SISAL INDUSTRY, AND MR.A.CHATTERTON'S REVIEW ON THE SUBJECT AS WELL AS THE LETTER RECEIVED FROM THE DUPUTY COMMISSIONER, MYSORE DISTRICT, NO:C2-237/47 OF THE 1ST. SEPTEMBER 1947, ALL THESE PAPERS BEING APPENDED TO THIS MEMORANDUM. MR. BHEEMASEN IS REQUESTED TO ATTACH HIS REMARKS, TOO, SO THAT AN ATTEMPT MAY BE MADE TO COME TO SOME FINAL CONCLUSION IN REGARD TO THE SETTING OUT OF AN AGAVE SISALANA PLANTATION IN THE STATE OF MYSORE, AND THUS TO UTILISE THE PLANTS OWNED BY MR. C.B. OAKLEY, AND IN THIS WAY TO BRING TO A COMMON CENTRE ALL THE GROWTHS MR. OAKLEY HAS IN HIS DIFFERENT ESTATES.

In the first place I would recommend that Mr. Chatterton's review on the subject be read, which I think is a very fair written discussion on the matter, though it was put on record with the Government of Mysore as far back as 1918, and had some steps been taken then to set out a plantation on the lines explained by Mr. Chatterton, it would have been a valuable estate to-day if it had been extended as suggested by him.

In any case, there is no reason why this should not be done now, taking the opportunity offered in making use of the plants which Mr. Oakley has in his different estates, and if the Government is




still willing to take an interest in the matter by making available lands for the purpose, which is indicated in the Deputy Commissioner's letter No:C2-237/47 of the 1st. of September 1947, further intercourse may proceed for the purpose of arriving at some mutual arrangement, since on a long term issue such as that involved in sisal fibre, it is not one in which private enterprise is likely to take much interest, more especially in these times of unsettlement.

A scheme, therefore, within the State of Mysore might be most practicable, and as the question of transport has also to be considered in the matter of moving the plants to the one centre, this would also be easier.

Yours truly,

(Signed) X X X

Chief Engineer.

Approved:

Vice President.

GOVERNMENT OF HIS HIGHNESS THE
MAHARAJA OF MYSORE.

General and Revenue Department.

G.O. No.5396-77-I & C.169-18-3
dated 14th December, 1918.

Sub: CULTIVATION OF SISAL HEMP IN THE STATE.

Read: GENERAL AND REVENUE DEPARTMENTS:- Letter dated 21st. September, 1918, from Mr.A.Chatterton, Director, Sandalwood Oil Factories, submitting a note on the cultivation of Sisal Hemp in the State.

(Printed in extenso.)

2. Government order No.2940-8-I & C. 169-8-1 dated 1st. October 1918, directing, among other things, that a sum of Rs.500 be placed at the disposal of Mr.A.Chatterton, Director of Sandalwood Oil Factories, for carrying on preliminary investigations in connection with the possibility of starting an industry in Sisal Hemp in the State.

3. Correspondence ending with letter dated 25th. October 1918 from Mr.A.Chatterton, Director of Sandalwood Oil Factories, emphasising the importance of starting the Industry immediately and stating that the preliminary operations necessary are not likely to cost more than Rs.15,000 this year.

Order No. 5369-77-I & C. 169-18-3, dated 14th. December 1918.

Government are pleased to direct that the following concessions be granted for encouraging the cultivation of Sisal Hemp in the State:-

Free grant of land (unassessed Kharab land by preference) to be made available either to individuals or village communities applying for the same up to an extent of 200 acres in each case under the following conditions :-

(a) The land to be free of assessment for five years and then assessed at progressive rates leading to full assessment from the eleventh year.

(b) The land to be planted up in full in five years.

(c) The land to be liable to be resumed if it is used for any other purpose within twenty years of the grant.

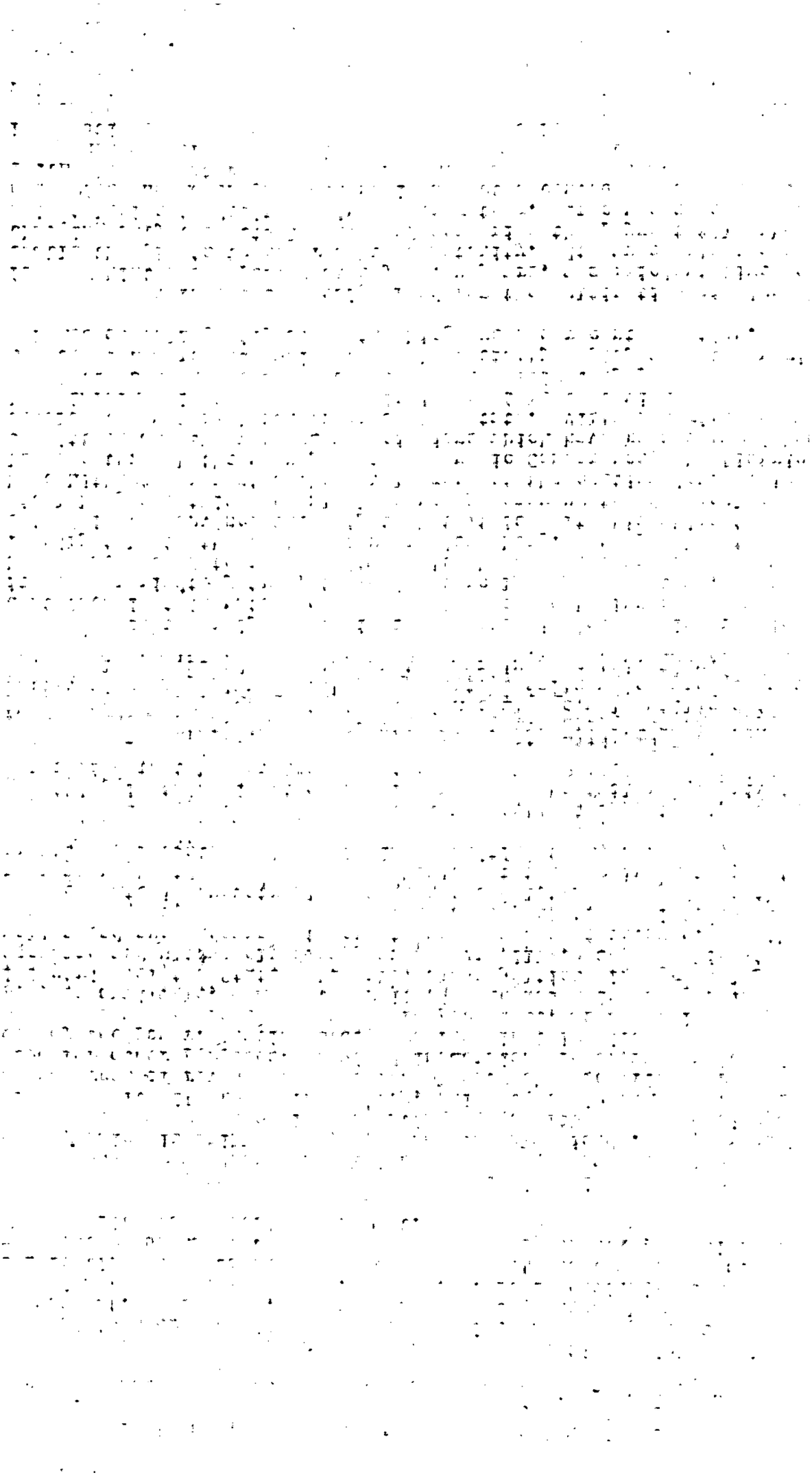
(d) Wherever there are not less than 1,000 acres under Sisal Hemp, Government will be prepared to help the cultivators to purchase the necessary machinery for extracting the fibre by advancing half the cost as a loan at a low rate of interest or arrange for the extraction of the fibre purchasing the leaves produced at a rate fixed so as to allow a fair margin of profit to the cultivators.

The above concessions will be in force for the present until about 5,000 acres are brought under cultivation, preference being given to subjects of the State in the grant of land.

2. A sum of Rs.5,000 may be spent on nurseries to be started by the Forest Department as proposed by Mr.A.Chatterton as soon as the concessions are notified and a sufficient number of applications for land is received; the cost being paid by re-appropriation in the current year's budget of the Forest Department.

3. The Revenue Commissioner and the Conservator of Forests are requested to take all further action inthe matter in consultation with Mr.Chatterton and submit reports of progress made from time to time .

(Signed) P.G.D'Souza.
Secy. to Govt., Depts. of Edn. & Agri.



It is difficult to frame an accurate estimate of the returns to be obtained from the cultivation of sisal hemp, as I am not in a position to state what price the hemp will fetch five or six years hence and I can only make an assumption on this point. The price, in London, immediately before the war was from £.28 to £.30 a ton and it is almost certain that it will be considerably higher than this after the war. I think it will therefore be fair to assume that sisal hemp will realise three annas per pound or Rs.420 per ton and as each plant will yield a pound of fibre and at 1,000 plants to the acre, the gross return will be Rs.187-8-0 per acre. In 1914, Messrs.Kirwan and Elsee stated that as a result of their experience, the cost of extraction and marketing the fibre was about Rs.175 per ton. It is likely that this figure will be exceeded in the future as freights will certainly be higher but the cost of working under Indian management should be lower. Allowing, however, a wide margin for contingencies, we may put the charges under this head at Rs.280 a ton which will leave the raiyat Rs.140, equivalent to one anna per plant per annum. With a thousand plants to the acre, the raiyat may expect to obtain a nett return of Rs.62-8-0 per acre. It may easily be considerably more than this but it is hardly likely to be less.

It will serve no useful purpose to go into minute details as accurate data for them are not available. I think it is sufficient to show that sisal hemp cultivation offers prospects of an extremely good return. My estimate of the prospects is strongly supported by certain general considerations about which there is no doubt whatever and which do not depend upon assumptions regarding current market prices. We know that the sisal hemp plants will grow in Mysore in a perfectly satisfactory manner and will yield a high class of fibre comparable with the best fibre produced in other parts of the world. Further, we know that the conditions in Mysore are such that the cost of bringing the plants to maturity, of cutting the leaves, of extracting the fibre and of putting it on the market will be less than in any of the tracts where sisal hemp is now cultivated. It is therefore, quite certain that, if sisal hemp is grown in Mysore on a sufficiently large scale, it will be able to compete with plantations in other parts of the world.

I have no accurate figures regarding the total production of sisal hemp; but it is estimated that the world's consumption of binder twine alone is 250,000 tons per annum. India exports large quantities of hemp, chiefly sann hemp, a fibre inferior to sisal hemp and commanding a much smaller price, and the following figures extracted from the seaborne Trade Returns are of interest as showing how important the Indian fibre crops are:-

| Year | Exports in tons | Value in Rs. | Value per ton at port of shipment. |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1914-15 | 33,511 | 99,43,334 | Rs.298 |
| 1915-16 | 30,413 | 1,02,53,742 | 337 |
| 1916-17 | 35,059 | 1,52,26,058 | 338 |
| 1917-18 | 16,886 | 88,29,696 | 328 |

The great reduction in exports in 1917-18 is due to the restrictions on shipping as the very high price realised clearly indicates a strong demand.

It is now necessary to indicate briefly the commitments of Government if these proposals are accepted for the encouragement of the cultivation of sisal hemp. For a period of at least ten years Government will have to establish nurseries in many parts of the State and to maintain them for demonstration and for instructional purposes. An average of a lakh of rupees a year will not be too much to spend on this account. For the first six years, there will be no return; but after the expiry of this period, the raiyats should commence the repayment of the cost of the plants supplied to them. At the end of four years, it will be necessary to purchase machines for extracting fibre and to set up central depots for the receipt of the leaves, where the fibre will be extracted. We may take it that each

C O P Y

Sisal Fibre.

## THE SISAL FIBRE INDUSTRY.

Memorandum by Major C. B. Oakley of Oakleypuram, Bangalore City. on the subject, in view of what appears in "Commerce" of the 27th of September, 1947.

I have taken an interest in the question of establishing this industry in India on a sound basis since 1936 and it has always been my contention that a large area in the State of Mysore should have been made worth the name on a long term issue, such as was advocated by Mr. . Chatterton in his paper which was submitted to the Government of Mysore some years ago.

To quote the paragraph which appears in " Commerce" verbatim, I give it here.-

> " For top-GRADE Empire sisal, the British official selling price is £.83 a ton. On the open world market the c.i.f. price for, equivalent sisal from Portuguese Africa is £. 98-£.100, a level which has not varied greatly this year, although the peak was a little higher. The present price of Manilla hemp at £.145 for the top-grade is also about peak, despite the unexpected large supplies. In April and May, the price had fallen sharply, touching £120, but philipine production is now being taken up owing to heavy U.S. buying."

Going back to the years when the prices of sisal fibre was in the vicinity of £.26 a ton, and when it was deemed possible then, too, that it would pay in India to establish large plantation on a commercial basis, I would point out that the C.I.F. price is now £.98 to 100 a ton, and a very great decrease in price over the next few years is not likely, in view of the increased demand of an excellent fibre from which it is being found that it can be put to new uses besides that of the manufacture of cordage.

I reiterate , that I have a large number of plants of the Agave sisalana genus in my different estates, which specie yeilds a super or fibre, and these would contribute to commencing an established plantation in the state of Mysore, which in time to come could be made to spread over a large area in consideration of the abundent number of bulbils or seedlings each plant produce when it poles.

Oaklipuram,
Bangalore City,
Ist October, 1947.

Signed. C.B.Oakley,
Major.

C O P Y

MAJOR C. B. OAKLEY. V. D.

OAKLIPURAM,

BANGALORE CITY.

15th. October 1947.

The Revenue Commissioner,

Government of Mysore,

B a n g a l o r e .

Dear Sir,

THE SISAL FIBRE INDUSTRY.

With reference to my conversation with you a few days ago on the above subject, when I consulted with you on the matter of lands being made available for the establishment of a Sisal Fibre Plantation in the State of Mysore, which might give effect to the schemes as suggested by Mr.Berkeley-Hill and Mr.Chatterton which were submitted some years ago to the Government of Mysore in regard to the cultivation of Sisal Fibre in the State of Mysore, I have to say that the site for the plantation should be very carefully considered, as it would play an important part towards the success of the scheme.

The Agave is a hardy plant and thrives over a wide range of soils provided they are well drained, and why well drained may be emphasised is because marshy lands are not suitable.

In the selection of the site, the following points should be borne in mind :-

1. Land of gravelly and stony nature is suitable.
2. Rainfall and distribution.
3. Proximity to rail-head.
4. Nature of roads connecting the rail-head.
5. Availability of water for irrigation and needs of the factory.
6. Availability of cheap electric power would be an advantage.
7. The locality should be healthy.

The data on the climatic elements of East Africa had been collected and extracts of these had been prepared of the important sisal areas and correlated with those of Mysore, from which it was apparent that the climate is more or less similar in character. Hence it may safely be assumed that sisal can be successfully cultivated in the State from a meteorological standpoint.

It had been suggested by Mr.J.S.Quin, Adviser on Rope Supplies and in collaboration with me, that in the first instance an area of 5000 acres should be selected in the State of Mysore to develop sisal on a commercial basis, thus providing a growth in the one area to eventually warrant a factory, and as also to give scope for extension in consideration of the large number of bulbils or seedlings given by each plant when the flower-stems are thrown up. In fact, Mr. Chatterton, Director of Sandalwood Oil Factories, when he submitted his note in 1918 to the Government of Mysore on the cultivation of sisal fibre in the State, said that he had no doubt that if cultivation of sisal were to be taken up in a thoroughly efficient manner and carried strenuously, it may result in at least 100,000 acres being brought under cultivation within a reasonable period, and from this area gross returns of from Rs.1,75,00,000 to Rs.2,00,00,000 would be obtained. At that time, it may be mentioned, the price of fibre was in the vicinity of £.30 a ton, whereas it is quoted now at £.80 a ton.

I have taken the opportunity of opening up this question again, in view of having at the present time a large number of plants big and small on my different estates, as well as a large number of bulbils coming forward, and these would contribute, at least, to commencing an established plantation, if only the question of a suitable area of land could be decided upon to meets all aspects, and on these matters your assistance would be most helpful.

I may also mention, before I conclude, that my growths of the agave are of the Agave Sisalana species, which genus yields the superior fibre.

Thrusting that you will give the matter your special attention, and that we may have the opportunity of discussing the matter again at an early opportunity,

I am,

Yours faithfully,

(Signed) C B Oakley

Copy forwarded to C.E.Noronha, Esq:, M.A., Secretary to the Government of His Highness the Maharaja of Mysore, Development Department, General and Revenue Secretariat, Bangalore, for his information.

DRAFT LETTER - Subject to alteration if necessary.

To,

The Dewan,
To the Government of His Highness the Maharajah of Mysore,
The Secretariate,
Bangalore.

From,

Major C.B.Oakley, V.D., A.M.I.M.E.,M.I.M., M.E.,
Oaklipuram,
Bangalore City.

Dear Sir,

THE SISAL FIBRE INDUSTRY.

In pursuance of the letter I have received from the Deputy Commissioner, Mysore District, No: C2-237/47 of the 1st. instant, a copy of which is attached to this letter, and in referring back to a paper submitted to the State by Mr. A. Chatterton in September 1918, on the subject of the cultivation of Sisal Hemp, a copy of which is also appended to this letter for your ready reference, I desire to place before you a short sketch whereby a plantation may be started in the State, possibly on the lines to some extent to those suggested by Mr. A. Chatterton, if a plan could be devised between your Government and myself, so that on the one hand a block of land could be provided which is suitably situated, that is, to give conveniences of roads and transport, and on the other hand, that I may be given the opportunity of bringing into use the large number of Agave Sisalana plants which I have on my different estates, the greater number being at Sinduvalli near Kadakola on the Mysore Railways, and in consequence, as aforesaid, to start a plantation which if it is located, too, in such a position so as to permit of its extension over a period of years, which is illustrated in Mr. Chatterton's paper, I have no doubt that in the course of time the plantation would prove to be a valuable industrial asset.

A project of this nature, of course, requires time, as explained by Mr. Chatterton in his paper, to produce returns, but as poling proceeds from year to year yielding possibly 200,000 bulbils or seedlings per annum, expansion would go forward apace to the desired aim of an industry on a large scale, which, however, has not been followed through in India as in other parts of the world.

GOVERNMENT OF HIS HIGHNESS THE
MAHARAJA OF MYSORE.

G.O. No:5369-77-1 & C.169-18-3.
dated 14th. December 1918.
*********

CULTIVATION OF SISAL HEMP IN THE

S T A T E .

Government are pleased to direct that the following concessions be granted for encouraging the cultivation of Sisal Hemp in the State:-

(a) The land to be free of assessment for five years and then assessed at progressive rates leading to full assessment from the eleventh year.

(b) The land to be planted up in full in five years.

(c) The land to be liable to be resumed if it is used for any other purpose within twenty years of the grant.

COMMENT BY THE REVENUE COMMISSIONER:-

It appears to me that the principal reason why Sisal Hemp cultivation has not been taken up in Mysore although the plant grows readily enough and yields a high quality of fibre are as follows :-

1. Six years must elapse before any return can be expected.
2. The extraction of the fibre by machinery necessitates operation on a large scale and the investment of a large capital on machinery and plant.

the consideration of Government.

Yours sincerely,

(Sd.) C.E.Noronha.

Major C.B.Oakley, V.D., A.M.I.M.E., M.I.M. & M.E.,
Sinduvalli Farm,
KADAKOLA. (M.S.Rys).

---

We are therefore revising the schemes originally prepared in 1945 and modifications suggested by the altered circumstances, and trust that a State or State-aided enterprise may be the early outcome of these efforts, and in this we shall make a special endeavour to see that the outcome is of benefit to the Ryots, Shareholders, Promoters and the State.

---

On the 6th. of July it was learnt that the subject matter of my letter of the 30th. June 1947 had been referred to the Revenue Commissioner and the Chief Conservators of Forests. The matter under reference being presumably the selection of a suitable site for the 5,000 acre Sisal plot, as per the Government of India scheme. In the alternative the distribution of the whole scheme throughout the State say a thousand to two thousand acres in each district simultaneously improving the ryots, roads and railway hedges to general benefit. These matters are now under consideration, and the Development Department have asked me to contact both the authorities in these connections in the matter of sites, ways and means and the matter generally.

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DRC 392-44-19 1729

# OAKLEY DUNCAN & Co. Ltd.,

MINE OWNERS, MINING & MECHANICAL ENGINEERS


TELEGRAMS: "MINERALS" "OAKLIPURAM"

*Chairman:*

MAJOR C. B. OAKLEY, V. D.,
A.M.I.M.E. & M.I.M. & M.E.



DEVELOPMENT DEPTT. 21 OCT 1947 GOVT. OF MYSORE


Bangalore City 20th Octr 1947.

Dear Mr. Noronha,

I am finding it very difficult to know at which end to start our investigations. The Revenue Commissioner advises that some 87.000 acres are available throughout the Mysore state which the villagers do not want for ordinary cultivation and these are situated in various parts wherever Amritmahal kavalis were available. I am seeing if I can find a suitable plot to start off. I have already suggested to you that we should try and start one unit of 1000 acres in the most suitable place in each of the districts and there should be a certain amount of competition and test of the various climates. Some members of my staff oppose this just as they do the idea of utilising railway hedges for similar tests. I am therefore trying to select as you expressed the wish, a large area with suitable conditions. It is difficult to arrive at a decision. For instance there is 10.000 acres in Chellakere but the rainfall there is only 17" and in fact all that zone, the Chitaldrug and Tumkur districts are very sparsely populated and on the famine border line with a low rainfall. Fromm the Government point of view of developing barren country it would pay to put down sisal but for the production of fibre it would be better to go to some zone where the rainfall is 40 to 30" or even 25". We are considering one block. I am writing to advise you that this matter is receiving consideration. It might simplify matters a great deal if we need not confine ourselves to one particular district. Have you given this aspect any serious consideration as you will remember I raised this issue several months ago. Meantime, I am accumulating an enormous stock of bulbils and it would suit me much better to put them out where they are likely to be needed instead of two or three handlings. I am now seeing if I can get a nursery near Yennehole near Kadakola where my plants are and another at Gunjur where a former plantation was, but without having definitely selected the spot one is in a quandry and without knowing what the final views of the Government were, one hesitates to spend money travelling as I shall have to do. With the present prices of fibre however seeing that they have risen - the owner of the estate in Beckfield which we ran for 10 years advises - from Rs.250/300 per ton to nearly 1000 per ton, the proposition comes within the range of a profitable and economic venture which the public might subscribe to if it also received the support of Government. I am going to Mysore today to visit my nurseries at Sinduvalli and after Dussera I hope to call and see you and to shape my ideas. Meantime, I am asking Mr. Walke to call on you, and Mr. Theemasen, and see whether we shall still adhere to the big block or a number of small ones as I have suggested in each place.

Yours sincerely,

C. B. Oakley

# OAKLEY DUNCAN & Co. Ltd.,

MINE OWNERS, MINING & MECHANICAL ENGINEERS

TELEGRAMS: "MINERALS" "OAKLIPURAM"

*Chairman:*
MAJOR C. B. OAKLEY, V. D.,
A.M.I.M.E. & M.I.M. & M.E.


Bangalore City 5th. Nov. 1947.

Copies forwarded to the Departments of Industry and Development to the Government of His Highness the Maharaja of Mysore.

The Principal,

The Tayachamarajendra Occupational Institute,

BANGALORE.

Dear Sir,

THE SISAL FIBRE INDUSTRY.

With reference to our conversation with you, when we called see you a day or two ago with samples of Sisal Fibre, we should like y opinion on the question of splitting or degumming the fibre, as also of softening, after you have examined the matter.

As explained to you, if a strand of the fibre is taken and examined by a microscope, it will be found to comprise of other finer filaments, and if these could be separated by some chemical process, as an experiment in your laboratory, and the results could be softene cause the fibre to be more pliable, it would be of considerable inte

We believe that this is already being done in other parts the world, but when it comes to dealing with large quantities, the economic side of the question has, of course, to be considered, and whether this is being done or eventually will be done by means of machinery is another question.

At any rate, if with your help we could at present do so experiments with the facilities at your disposal, and thus secure samples, we shall be much obliged.

We are enclosing for your perusal some notes in respect matter on the process invented by M.Thanu.

Encl: One.

Yours faithfully,
(Signed) J.F.Walke.

(J.F.Walke).
For Chairman.

## SISAL INDUSTRY DEVELOPMENT.

A chemical process which, it is claimed, will be of great benefit to the whole of the sisal industry is the process invented by M. Thuau.

It is degumming sisal, thereby dividing the fibres and making them sufficiently soft, supple and pliable to be able to spin up to No. 8's and No. 9's (English number), which means up to 5,000 metres per kilo of fibre.

The new process of degumming did not injure the strength of the fibre and enabled manufacturers to employ up-to-date and modern jute and hemp machines to spin and weave the fine numbers, which had not been possible before.

The sisal, when degummed by the Thuau process, assumed approximately the same colour as Italian hemp, which degummed sisal was destined to replace, and that was particularly interesting when one realised that the price of Italian hemp was about £.50 per ton as compared to sisal, which was about £.27 per ton. If the price of sisal should advance the production would advance accordingly, because it only took three years or less to grow a full-size sisal plant, and with any rise it would always be proportionate with the advance in price of other fibres.

Degummed sisal, he added, would not rot like hemp or jute, and was from 25 per cent. to 75 per cent, stronger in breaking strength, and had a better finish in yarn or cloth, a better feel and much cleaner to the eye, as well as being free of objectionable smell.

## SOLVING A PROBLEM.

Stress was upon the manufacturing of sacks for rental purposes, of which millions were employed. In the case of wool manufacturers who receive their wool from abroad with jute coverings, the great trouble had been that the jute or hemp coverings got mixed with the wool, but that the employment of degummed sisal cloth, as shown, would solve the trouble.

The entire process was exhibited in London recently, firstly, the raw sisal, then the degummed sisal, afterwards rovings, various numbers of yarn, twines of all kinds, and then a great number of fabrics.

There were exhibited a great number of cloths in various colours, tapestries, wall coverings, sail cloths, shoes made of degummed sisal, American cloth for the manufacture of motor-car tops, and furniture, to take the place of leather, samples of carpets and awnings.

It was stated that as degummed sisal would not rot, the cloth was particularly suitable for the manufacture of fire and water hose, tarpaulins, linoleums, oilcloths for covering the tops of goods cars, for tent purposes, imitation rubber boots, raincoats, bags for letter carriers and market bags, loose furniture covers, steamer deck chairs, coverings for farmers' wagons, rick covers, baskets, mats and butchers' aprons.

Up to the present, it was added, raw sisal had been used almost exclusively for cables, ropes and coarse twines, with a very small production of unwieldy sacks, but this discovery opened up to the sisal trade a new field for its use.

The interweaving, too, of the softer sisal degummed fibre now becomes a possibility.

Immediate

D.O. no. D. 2548 d. 17.11.47

Dear Sri.

Sisal fibre industry

I am desired to state that the Scale file, on the above subject referred to in this office no. No. 432 of 26.6.1947 has not yet been returned in spite of reminders. The file is required urgently. I am to request you kindly to be so good as to return the file without

PLEASE SEE PAGE THREE.

# THE AGAVE OR SISAL PLANT

2107

ITS CULTIVATION.- Sisal, like all agaves, is very hardy and resists drought to an extraordinary degree. It can be successfully grown on soils which are too poor for the cultivation of any sort of dry crop. Waste lands and worn out soils will do well; but dry Calcareous gravelly soils are eminently suited for sisal plantations. On such soil, sisal will grow for several years without poling. It must be remembered that early poling is what the sisal planter has to combat. Swampy and ill drained lands are not suitable. Rich soils should also be avoided, as on them the leaves develop a large percentage of pulp and very little fibre; moreover, the plant rapidly grows into maturity. Open land should be selected and to work the industry economically it is desirable to have a large area. The plantation should be laid out systematically. It would be convenient to have a fairly level site where light railways could eventually be put down, as the weight of green leaves is very large in proportion to the yield of fibre, and their conveyance from different parts of the plantation to the factory involves considerable labour and expense. A good supply of water is also required for washing the fibre during the process of milling.

The plant is propagated by root suckers, and bulbils borne on the peduncle or flower stalk. The plant reaches maturity in 10 to 20 years when a pole 12 to 24 feet in height grows out from its centre, on which a number of blossoms appear, borne on arms which extend laterally from the upper part of the pole. In about six months after the appearan of the pole, bulbils which develop into young plants appear varying in length from two to four inches, about 1000 to 2000 in number. The bulbi. are gathered and set out about six inches apart each way in nursery beds, or if well protected from being eaten by goats and cattle, they may be planted directly in the plantation, and thus avoid their having to be transplanted later on which retards the growth. After flowering the plant dies but suckers are thrown out from the roots so that the death of the parent provides an immediate progeny; Suckers are also produced in the parent plant from the second to the fourth year in numbers, many plants producing as many as twenty suckers during that period; after th they begin to decrease until they finally cease to appear. Bulbils fron old plants that have been regularly cut and suckers from plants which

have poled should not be used for propagation as they are likely to pole early. After the plant flowers, the suckers also begin to throw out small premature poles with flowers. This is seen in the case of every plant in the Sunkal Farm.

Land should be cut during the dry season, allowed to spring and burnt after the first fall of rain. Stumps should be cut close to the ground so as to facilitate running of lines and getting the rows of plants straight. As cattle eat the leaves a fence is necessary.

In Mexico the plants are usually spread on the ground for two or three months to partially dry them as they are apt to rot if planted at once. Dry leaves at the bottom of the young plant should be removed while planting. The plants may be put down 7 feet from each other in rows 8 feet apart. At this rate it will take 800 plants to an acre. They could also be planted at different distances such as 6' x 6' and 7' x 7'. In fact, it would be convenient to have a wider space of about 12 feet between every fourth or fifth row. Rows should be perfectly straight. Planting in rows facilitates weeding, admits free current of air and sunlight which is necessary to give strength to the fibre, allows the labourer to cut and bring out the leaves quickly and above all gives room for replanting the area when the life of the old plantation is about to end. Interspaces are cultivated with pigeon pea, corn or cotton in the Bahamas. The slight shade afforded by these crops is beneficial to sisal and they also help in keeping down the weeds.

After planting is done very little attention is required. Big weeds may be removed. All the root suckers which are produced by the plant should be carefully taken off or the leaves will deteriorate and the plants will get exhausted resulting in their premature flowering.

The leaves will be ready for cutting in the fourth and in some cases in the fifth year. Early cutting is said to render the plants less liable to premature poling. The proper time to cut is when the leaves are found at right angles to the stem.. Cutting immature leaves induces early poling and as the plant is weakened thereby the leaves subsequently borne are smaller and fewer. On the other hand the cutting should not be delayed till the leaves get over-mature when they droop down and look yellowish, and the fibre from such leaves will be weak. On the cutting of the leaves, depends to a large extent the life of the plant; if they are not cut, the plant will pole before time and once poled the

fibre becomes dry. The cutting of the leaves could be done for 12 to 16 years when the plant flowers and then dies, and it can be made almost continuous on a plantation by planting in the interspaces when plants begin to pole. The leaves ought to be about 4 to 5 feet in length and they should be cut close to the stem. The plant is cut every three months when 6 to 8 leaves are gathered and one man can cut 1200 leaves in a day. Sisal leaves are easy for harvesting as most of them have no side teeth. The terminal spine has to be cut off.

The matter is under consideration now as to whether the foundations of a sisal plantation on a large scale can be put down in the State of Mysore.

MORE MODERN USAGES FOR THE FIBRE.- If the fibre can be economically degummed and softened so as to make it sufficiently supple to weave it into mercerised cloth for India and even artificial silk, the demand for the former would be considerable. In fact, the filaments could be extracted for admixture with ordinary cotton yarn to make very strong and durable mercerised saries for the millions of women in India, who each require at least two or three saries a year. It would also revolutionise the production of yarn for artificial silk which is now being imported into India, the fibre filaments giving to the fibre considerable strength.

Experiments were carried out some years ago in connection with the degumming and softening of sisal fibre to a degree of success, and exhibits were made in London of the textures.

If the processes could now be implemented on a commercial basis, the value of sisal fibre would be so enhanced that it would sell by the pound, rather than by the ton for the manufacture of cordage and the like.

Experiments are now being carried out at the Sri Krishnarajendra Silver Jubilee Technological Institute in Bangalore, and the results are awaited.

Copy forwarded to C.E.Noronha, Esq:, M.A., Secretary to the Government of His Highness the Maharaja of Mysore, Development Department, Bangalore, for his information more in respect to the latter part of these notes

Bangalore:
19th. November 1947.

(J.F.Walke).

Inc 392-44-20

2281
Inc

# THE SISAL FIBRE INDUSTRY.

## FUTURE PROSPECTS IN THE STATE OF MYSORE.

## NOTE TO BE PUT UP BEFORE THE DEWAN OF MYSORE

Oaklipuram,
Bangalore City.
28th. November 1947.

Volumes have been written on this subject ever since the year 1918, and in writing this now towards the end of 1947, I am attempting to summarise a good deal that has been said on the subject.

In taking my data from schemes drawn up from time to time by Major C.B.Oakley, who is still in the field with growths of the better species of agave, the scheme of Mr.A.Chatterton, Director of Sandalwood Oil Factories, who submitted a scheme to the Government of His Highness the Maharaja of Mysore as far back as in 1918, and that of Mr.J.D.Berkeley-Hill's, which scheme was drawn up at the suggestion of Mr.J.S.Quin, Advisor on Rope Supplies, in collaboration with Major Oakley, and observations I have made from time to time since 1945, it cannot be disputed that from the climatic conditions and from the data taken from those conditions existing in East Africa, that sisal can be successfully cultivated in the State.

366
4/12

Anyhow, it would seem that with all the suggestions made over this period of years, nothing was done in a practical way to put down a plantation on a big enough scale so as to develop the industry on sound commercial lines, and had this been done as far back as in 1918, with the demand and the price of sisal as it is to-day, and with some thousands of acres under cultivation, it would have contributed considerably to the industries of the State of Mysore.

But still the Government appears to be inclined to take an interest in the matter, and when I was at Sinduvalli in the South of Mysore in November of 1945, and when I wrote then to the Development Department making certain suggestions, I received a reply to the effect that the matter was under the consideration of Government. But at that time Major Oakley was not in good health, and so the matter was not pressed to a point.

Nevertheless, again recently the matter had been brought up, when the Development Department had asked for a comprehensive scheme on a large scale, and had indicated that the Revenue

Commissioner should be approached so that suitable land may be provided.

The Revenue Commissioner was interviewed by Major Oakley and his Manager, Mr.Bheemasen Rao, and a list of lands was given to them, but it has apparently been rather difficult to decide which of these will be most suitable, when the selection of a site of about 5000 acres in one block requires the following points to be borne in mind.-

1. Quality of land.
2. Rainfall.
3. Proximity to rail-head.
4. Nature of roads connecting with rail-head.
5. Availability of water for irrigation and the needs of the factory.
6. Availability of cheap electric power.
7. A locality which is healthy.

Moreover, in selecting the site some consideration would have to be given also to expansion over the years to come, because once propagation commences with the poling of plants expansion will continue apace.

Mr. Chatterton in his report had said that it appeared to him that the principal reasons why sisal fibre cultivation had not been taken up in Mysore, although the plant grew readily enough and yielded a high quality of fibre, was because.-

1. Six years must elapse before any return can be expected.
2. The extraction of the fibre by hand is not
3. possible as a commercial proposition.
3. The extraction of the fibre by machinery necessitates operation on a large scale and the investment of a large capital on machinery and plant.
4. There is no local market for the fibre and small parcels do not command a fair price when exported.

This, was, of course, in 1918 when Mr. Chatterton wrote his report, and when possibly the value of sisal fibre was about £.26/-

a ton, but it is selling to-day at £.80/- to £.90/- a ton, and with the revival of experiments that were made years ago in seeking to put the fibre with its considerable strength to better uses than merely the manufacture of cordage and the like, may result in no distant time in bringing the fibre to that value of selling by the pound rather than by the ton.

That five or six years must elapse before any return can be expected from a new plantation is true, but if experiments which are now being carried out in attempting to degum and soften the fibre prove successful, and there should be no reason why this cannot be done now when it was accomplished to some extent in 1926, could a scheme not be devised to collect the fibre from all over the State, not by destroying plants but by cutting only the undermost leaves, and by an arrangement with the villages by which payment would be made for the fibre extracted which could then be brought to a common centre for treatment? This could proceed so as to bring in an income to cover capital outlay until the new plantation has been given time to mature. Development could also then proceed in regard to experiments, and the fibre could be made into manufactures for local use with the importation of any special machinery that may be required.

To set on foot an undertaking of the sort, the assistance of the Government of Mysore is essential, and there is no reason why this should not be forthcoming in consideration of an industry being established for the State, and in regard to the commencement to be made in setting out a new plantation, Major Oakley has the plants and the Government has the land. The only matter to be decided now is as to the ways and means of implementing the schemes to some extent, if not going all the way at present, of those of Mr. Chatterton's and Mr. Berkeley-Hill's.

Mr. Noronha, of the Development Department to the Government of Mysore, had said when I saw him a little while ago, that once he had before him a comprehensive scheme for the rearing of a plantation as also for starting the industry on a large scale, he would place all the papers before the Dewan and ask for a meeting to be convened.

In regard to the experiments being carried out by Mr. Srinagabhushana, the Acting Principal of the Sri Krishnarajendra Silver Jubilee Technological Institute in Bangalore, in having provided him

with the loan of Professor Barker's book on sisal in which the matter of degumming and the softening of sisal fibre is dealt with to some extent, he wrote to me on the 12th. of this month as follows:- "Those methods, in addition to some others, are being tried at the Institute and I will let you know the results in due course".

The immediate issue now, however, is as to what conclusions Major Oakley can arrive at with the Government of Mysore, and unless this is decided it would appear that little progress can be made.

(Signed) J. F. Walke.

42, 258, 759

916, 1102, 1314,
1514, 1727.
— Dte.

The main file bearing
Dy. 5279 has been
u/o to us. Dii & Dte
on 26/6 (ay) Its return
may be awaited

Dte
14/7

Pl remind him

Dmor
14/7

Remainder issued.
D. 581
31/7/47.

u/o 432 / 26-6-47

Subsequent letter issued for Re.
is also pending. The main file (sent u/o
has not yet been returned by the
Dii & Dte
Another reminder may be sent for
same

Dte
6/9

Dte
6/9. u/o. Seen

Further references have been
received in this Dte and the
Major Case (they are pending). The secret file has
been sent u/o to the Dii & Dte
on 26/8/47 & the has not yet
returned in file in spite &

Sisal Fibre Ind.

159, 946, 1102.
1314, 1540, 1721.
9/4

Spite 7 Reminders

Left Do. Reminder Sent

Issued No D. 2548 d 17.11.47

To B.S.A. Mudaliar Esq.

Requests that the file re: Sisal Fibre Industry Dir g I&E may be quickly sent as it is urgently required here.

2063

DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIES AND COMMERCE

Mr. B. G. A. MUDALIAR, B.A., B.Sc., A.M.I.Mech.E.
Director.

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR,

*Bangalore.* 18th Nov. *194* 7.

D. O. No. A1/Misc/47-48.

Dear Mr. Mohamed Rahmathullah,

With reference to your D.O. letter No.D.2548 dated the 17th November 1947, I am returning separately the U.O. file regarding starting of a Sisal Fibre - Industry.

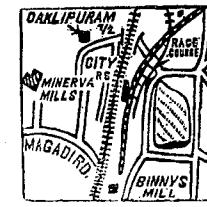
Yours Sincerely,

Mohamed Rahmathullah Esqr.,M.A.,LL.B.,
Asst. Secretary,
Development Department,
Bangalore.

TELEGRAMS:- 'MINERALS'

UNIVERSAL TRADE CODE

**MAJOR C. B. OAKLEY, V. D.**
A.M.I.M.E., & M.I.M. & M.E.
*Chairman*
OAKLEY, DUNCAN & Co. LTD.,




OAKLIPURAM,

Bangalore City 27th Dec. 1947

I have asked him to see me on the 2nd or 3rd January

Dear Mr. Naronha,

I have not been able to see you or rather I have not thought it advisable, knowing how busy you were in the Assembly, to see you. I also learnt that you went to Delhi with the Minister and that you dealt with the matter of sisal fibre there and I am anxiously awaiting news as to the attitude of the Central Govt. in order to shape my course. I have not been idle and shortly you will be seeing me moving down to Mysore to start moving of my nurseries from Sinduvalli to Nanjangud or Kadakola and I was thinking of running out between now and the 10th. I don't want to bother you during the holidays unless it suits your convenience. So, I am sending this chit to you to find out if and when it is convenient for me to see you in the next few days. There is much that I should like to discuss with you and you will have the latest news from Delhi the result of that conference and I have the views of the Rope Advisor to Govt. of India, Mr. J.S. Quin of Calcutta.

wishing you compliments of the season,

I am,
yours sincerely,

C.B. Oakley

4901
Ire

Bangalore, 11th March, 1948.

Dear Mr. Noronha,

You will recollect that I gave Mr. Dasappa certain letters to the various Departments of the Government of India and you mentioned that you would forward them to the parties concerned by post. I have received a reply apparently to one of these reading as follows:-

> "please refer to your letter dated the 12th December 1947 regarding the development of Sisal industry in India. We do not appear to have received your earlier letter of the 3rd February, 1945 referred to therein. The points raised therein are now under consideration and a further communication will be made to you in due course." (from Asst. Secretary to Government of India, Ministry of Agriculture.)

I have mislaid my copy of the letter referred to (12.12.47) - in fact I prepared 3 copies, one for despatch per Mr. Dasappa which apparently you have forwarded, and another is put on the file I gave, which is now in your possession and I have mislaid the third copy I kept for my own reference.

I have not been able to do much in the way of inspecting the various areas the Revenue Commissioner has placed on record for my selection of a suitable spot for opening up the estate but I have made progress with regard to the lay out of nurseries and would be pleased to report progress in this connection.

Certain fresh points have arisen owing to the contact I have made with the African planter who owns the Anantapur area, which it would be remembered I ran for 7 years. He is willing to sell this area and has asked me to buy it. It seemed to me that under all the circumstances which I will explain later it would be possible by making this purchase and by adding to it my resources to get a working unit going for the purpose of demonstration to so many States and provincial Governments that are concerned with a view to successful exploitation of this fibre industry. This aspect is being considered.

Another fresh factor that has arisen which I have not brought to your notice is the modern tendency and practice in East Africa is to select only the very best lands and thus obtain

9&C.392-44-22

Major C.B. Oakley care of

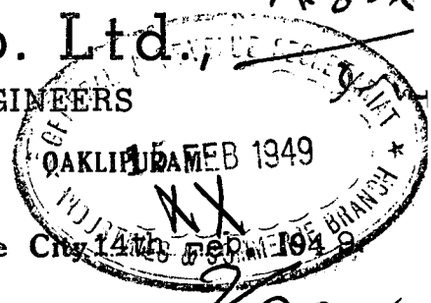
# OAKLEY DUNCAN & Co. Ltd.

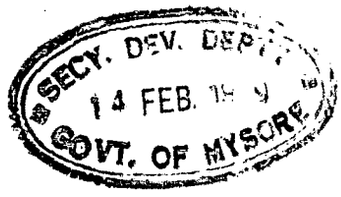
MINE OWNERS, MINING & MECHANICAL ENGINEERS

TELEGRAMS: "MINERALS"

*Chairman:*

MAJOR C. B. OAKLEY, V. D.,
A.M.I.M.E. & M.I.M. & M.E.




Bangalore City 14th Feb. 1949

The Development Secretary,
Government of Mysore,
Bangalore.

Dear Sir,

I am writing to ask you if you could make it convenient to make an appointment with me for an interview with regard to files about sisal that were left with you sometime back.

Thanking you in anticipation,

Yours faithfully,

C B Oakley

Sri M.Malleshayya, M.A., LL.B.,
Asst. Secretary to Government,
Development Department.

GENERAL AND REVENUE SECRETARIAT

Dated, Bangalore, 3rd March, 1949.

D. O. No. D 6026

Dear Sir,

Subject:- Sisal Fibre industry.

With reference to your letter dated, 14th February, 1949, on the above subject, I am desired to state that the Development Secretary to Government will be glad to see you on Monday the 7th March, 1949, at 3 P.M. in his chambers.

Yours sincerely,
M.Malleshayya

Major C.B.Oakley, V.D.,
A.M.I.M.E.& M.I.M.& M.E.,
C/o Messrs. Oakley Duncan & Co. Ltd.,
Oakkipuram,
Bangalore City.

Copy to P.C. to Dev.Secy.

GHC. 392-44-23.

I. R. B. 6]

SUBJECT..... Sisal fibre indust-

.....

.....

To Day

Dy No. D 6026

3-3-49

To

.....

.....

Date of issue .....

.....

Signed by .....

Dear Sir,

With Ref. to your letter dated 14.2.49 on the above subject, I am asked to state that the Dev. Secy will be glad to see you on Monday the 7th March 49 at 3 p.m. in his Chambers

Yours faithfully

for Secy

Major C.B. Oakley V.D.
M.E.S.
C/o
M/s Oakley Duncan & Co Ltd
Oakeshott
Bombay

Ack to D.C. & Dev Secy

D&C. 392-44-24. 4746 R 1/2 3829

GOVERNMENT OF MYSORE.

OFFICE OF THE REVENUE COMMISSIONER
IN MYSORE,
Bangalore, dated the 4th January 1949.

No.C2-4793/46-47.

Enclosures

SECY. DEV. DEPTT. 8 JAN 19 GOVT. OF MYSORE

To

The Secretary to the Government of Mysore,
Development Department,
BANGALORE.

Sir,

Subject:-Establishment of a sisal fibre industry in the State.

---

With reference to your letter No.D.7590 dated 19th June 1947 and in continuation of this office letter of even number dated 5th September 1947 on the above subject, I have the honour to enclose herewith copies of letters No. C2-237/47-48 dated 20th October 1948 received from the Deputy Commissioner, Mysore District and No.D.Dis.1074/46 dated 16th November 1948 received from the Chief Conservator of Forests in Mysore.

D 1102/4901 Secy A 17/5/48

392-44-12

In this connection I may add that Major C.B. Oakley has now asked for grant of certain lands in Mysore and Kolar Districts for the purpose and a report has been called for.

A further communication will be made to you in the matter.

Yours faithfully,

W. Narayanachary

REVENUE COMMISSIONER.

28 FEB 1949

The papers on this subject are being dealt with in the Rev Secty. If agreed, this may be transferred thereto for necessary action.

7/2/49 Rev-Br 8/2/49

No references are available in the Revenue Branch on the above subject. As a communication to the R.C. has issued from the Development Branch, the papers may be returned to the D & C. Branch for taking necessary action in the matter

4/3/49 15/2 15/2 Dev Br 21/2

Copy of letter No.C2-237/47-48 dated 20th October 1948 from the Deputy Commissioner, Mysore District, Mysore, to the Revenue Commissioner in Mysore, Bangalore, re: establishment of sisal fibre industry in the State.

---

In continuation of this office letter No.C2-237/47-48 dated 20-8-48 on the above subject, I have the honour to state that major Oakley was informed of the details of lands available in Periyap tna Taluk and he was asked to select a suitable area out of the available plots. But he selected a large block in the Urumudikaval which was included in the State Forest area and which the forest Department was not agreeable to surrender. The land suggested for grant near Koppa was not applied for by Major Oakley.

He then signified his intention to take up lands near about Nanjangud or Kadakola. The Amildar, Nanjangud, has reported that there is no suitable land in his taluk. The applicants agent selected a small plot of 10 acres in S.No.160 of Thalur village which is close to his mines at Sindhuvalli in Mysore Taluk. As this was a small plot which the Sub Division Officer could grant under the Rules contained in Art.167 of the Revenue Manual Vol.I he has been requested to pass orders himself andinform the party.

==========

Copy of letter No.D.Dis.1074/46 dated 16th November 1948 from the Chief Conservator of Forests in Mysore, Bangalore, tothe Revenue Commissioner in Mysore, Bangalore, re: establishment of a sisal fibre industry in the State.

---

Further to my letter of even number dated the 25th August 1947, I write to invite your kind reference to letter No.C2-237/47-48 dated 20th October 1948 addressed to you by the Deputy Commissioner, Mysore. As Major Oakley has selected a plot elsewhere, the subject is closed in this Department.

==========

COPIES.

FOR REVENUE COMMISSIONER.

GOVERNMENT OF HIS HIGHNESS THE MAHARAJA OF MYSORE.

General and Revenue Secretariat,

No. D 6446-7 *Dated, Bangalore,* 24th March, 194 9

FROM

*The Secretary to the Government of*
*His Highness the Maharaja of Mysore,*
**Development** [redacted] *Department.*

**To**

1) The Director of Industries & Commerce in Mysore.

2) The Director of Agriculture in Mysore.

**Sir,**

**Subject:- Sisal Fibre Industry.**

I am directed to state that a meeting will be held at the Chambers of the Hon'ble Minister for Finance and Industries on the 24th instant at 3 P.M. to consider the above subject. Major C.B.Oakley of Messrs. Oakley Duncan & Co., will also be present at the meeting. I am to request you to be so good as to attend the meeting without fail and furnish your views in the matter.

**Yours faithfully,**

M Kalle Shayya

**For Secretary to Government**
**Development Department.**

GOVERNMENT OF HIS HIGHNESS THE MAHARAJA OF MYSORE.

No. D6495

General and Revenue Secretariat,

*Dated, Bangalore,* 21st March, *194* 9

FROM

*The Secretary to the Government of*
*His Highness the Maharaja of Mysore,*
Development ~~General~~ *Department.*

To

Major C. B. Okley,
C/o Oakley Duncan & Co.,
Oakkipuram, Bangalore City.

Sir,

Subject:- Sisal Fibre Industry.

With reference to your letter dated, the 14th February, 1949, on the above subject, I am directed to request you to meet the Hon'ble Minister for Finance and Industries on the 24th instant at 3 P.M. in his Chambers.

Yours faithfully,

Secretary to Government,
Development Department.

Cc.

No D 6445
To 21-3-49

Major C. B. Okley
C/o Gauley Duncan & Co.,
6 Kalipuram,
Bangalore City.

Subj: Sisal Fibre Industry

Sir,

With Ref. to your letter dt. 14-2-49 on the above subject, I am directed to request you to accept the Hon'able Minister for Finance & Industries on the 24th inst. at 3 P.M. in his Chambers.

Yours Faithfully,
21/3/49
Under Secy.

21/3.

D 6446
To 21-3-49

(1) The Dr of Ind & Com
(2) The Dr of Agri

Subject: Sisal Fibre Industry.

Sir

I am directed to state that a meeting will be held at the chambers of the Hon'ble Minister for Finance & Industries on the 24th instant at 3 P.M. to consider the above subject.

Major C. B Okley of M/s Oakley Duncan & Co. will also be present at the meeting. I am to request you to be so good as to attend the meeting without fail and furnish your views in the matter.

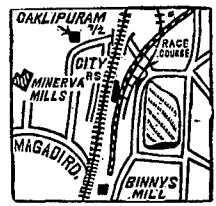
Yours faithfully.
21/3/49
Under Secy.

TELEGRAMS:- 'MINERALS'

4907

UNIVERSAL TRADE CODE

**MAJOR C. B. OAKLEY, V. D.**
A.M.I.M.E., & M.I.M. & M.E.
*Chairman*
OAKLEY, DUNCAN & Co. LTD.,




OAKLIPURAM,

Bangalore City 22nd March 1949

The Secretary
to the Govt. of H.H. the Maharaja of Mysore,
Development Department,
General & Revenue Secretariat,
Bangalore.

S i r,

Your letter No.D.6445 of the 21st inst. on the subject of Sisal Fibre Industries, - reached us today and we have sent it on to Madras where Major C.B.Oakley is staying at present. He has an engagement on Thursday at Kolar Gold Fields with Mr. Lindsay of Mysore Mines and Mr. Taylor of Messrs. John Taylor and Son. Therefore, we are not quite sure whether he can conveniently be here on Thursday. Under the circumstances, could you kindly move the Hon'ble Minister for Finance and Industries to give him another date shortly after Thursday? Needless to say Major Oakley would have been very happy and felt honoured by the call and be present but for this prior engagement.

Yours faithfully,
P.P. C. B. O a k l e y.

C. B. Oakley

...

Today

Immediate

D6566-8

24-3-44

No. 1) Hon Sec J Sh
2) Hon Sec J Apr
3) Major C.B. Oakley V.D. etc.
Okehampton. B. ch.

Dear Sec.

Social Fixture

I am desired to refer to the above letter no. D.6566-7 of 21.3.44 on the above subject and to say that the meeting fixed to take place today has been postponed a date after the 9th April 1944 will be fixed & intimated to you

Yours

Hon Sec Sh

Yours

Sh

29/3/44 Sec

GOVERNMENT OF HIS HIGHNESS THE MAHARAJA OF MYSORE.

General and Revenue Secretariat,

No. D6566-8

*Dated Bangalore,* 24th March 194-9.

FROM

*The Secretary to the Government of His Highness the Maharaja of Mysore.*

Development Department

To

Dear Sir:

SUBJECT:- RE: SISAL FIBRE INDUSTRY

I am desired to refer to this office letter No.D.6448-7 dated the 21st March 1949, on the above subject and to say that the meeting fixed to take place today has been postponed and a date after the 9th April 1949, will be fixed and intimated to you.

Yours faithfully,

Secretary to Government
Development Department

D.P.4.

Bangalore, 7th March. 1949.

Memo to form the basis of discussion with the Government of Mysore through the Development Secretary in connection with the proposed action to be taken in connection with the development and growth of sisal plant, the manufacture and uses of the fibre and other by-products.

As far as possible, the note will take the shape of a questionaire for views on detailed issues.

1. Is it still desired that the enquiry should be limited to a 5000 acre block in one suitable spot on the lines of the scheme prepared by Lt. Berkley Hill on behalf of the Government of India Supplies Department?

2. Would the proposed amendment now put up for consideration viz., an Apex company situated in the capital of Mysore State to sponsor and develop subsidiary companies in other parts of Mysore and India, chiefly say 1000 acres in suitable districts, meet with their approval?

3. Would they take shares in the said Apex company to assist with plants and advice to conduct research for the manufacture of decorticators, raspadors and small hand decorticating machines on a selec site within the limits of Bangalore - a demonstration unit to be evolv and as this work has been partly done and arising out of it, the cons deration of basing a demonstration unit north of the City station in the Yaklipuram area.

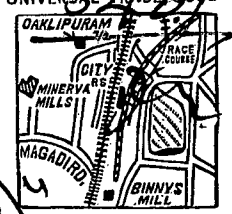
The subsidiary companies would be largely co-operative and apart from any subscription by Government, the Apex Fibre Company or any outsider, the aim would be to make it a co-operative unit that could draw capital, if needed, from the Apex banks.

4. Is it approved that seeing the suggestion emanating fro the Government of India that they should be asked to subscribe a considerable portion of the capital on the understanding that the Apex company would be not for Mysore alone but for the whole of Indi or such companies as desire to be supported by such a parent unit th tendency being while not abandoning entirely the 5000 acre scheme, to t endeavour to make the development more general and benefecial to r ts and owners of suitable lands as the proposed scheme is to subsidis

TELEGRAMS:- 'MINERALS'

UNIVERSAL TRADE CODE


**MAJOR C. B. OAKLEY, V. D.**
A.M.I.M.E., & M.I.M. & M.E.
*Chairman*
OAKLEY, DUNCAN & CO., LTD.,


OAKLIPURAM,


CENTRAL REVENUE SECRETARIAT
6 APR 1949
BANGALORE


Bangalore City 6th April 1949

The Development Secretary,
Government of Mysore,
Bangalore.

Dear Sir,

I am enclosing a copy of a letter I have addressed to the Chief Engineer, Irrigation, Mysore Government re; Sisal. In view of the appointment you were good enough to make with the Minister, and as you have promised to give me a date when an interview would be convenient, I thought of laying this aspect before you, of utilising the Kabini and Irwin canal banks for the growth of sisal fibre to provide protection against erosion etc. as well as in the interests of the growth of the sisal industry.

Yours faithfully,

C B Oakley

Mr. Oakley tells me that he would be here for Audience to-day i.e. the 14th. At the moment he is quite (the 9th) & this. Speak to me file & put up

C. F. 74.]

## Routine Notes.

[To be used only for notes, requisitions, etc., not intended for permanent record.]

The main file - D.A.P. 4907 - has been marked on 8/4/09 to Sri P.M. to send a date for interview with the Maharaja. This will also be sent in connection for doing the needful, if any.

8/4/09 Dep. Secy.

Secy. to Govt.

9.4

9/4

Read on 1-1-14

SECY. DEV DEPTT
9. APR. 19 4
GOVT. OF MYSORE

*N.B.—Should routine notes be written on small slips, the notes must be copied, or slips pasted on this form.*

C. F. 74.]

WD 01547—GPB—40,000—9-12-42

# Routine Notes.

[To be used only for notes, requisitions, etc., not intended for permanent record.]

*N.B.— Should routine notes be written on small slips, the notes must be copied, or slips pasted on this form.*

Major C.B.Oakley.

Oaklipuram,
Bangalore, 5th April, 1949.

The Chief Engineer (Irrigation),
Government of Mysore,
Bangalore.

Dear Sir,

I enclose copy of my letter No.74, which will explain the reason of the enquiry which I am about to make of you, and I may say that my information is that in U.P. and other agricultural areas of India, the 'agaves' or aloes, the most economic and profit earning is "Sisal" which have been used on channel bunds where erosion is rife, as the root forces of this plant is very intense and dense and therefore, have merits of stopping erosion and protecting the channel bunds. I have come to the conclusion as you will see from my letter No.74, that Nanjangud or failing that, Kadakola are the best suited to the starting of sisal plantation in the Mysore maidan and furthermore facilities are likely to be improved by reason of the fact that two large paper works are in contemplation and one of the features of th scheme is to to clear the obstacles in the river Kabini betwee Hegadadevenkote and Nanjangud. We have therefore selected Nanjangud as our base for further investigation of suitable si and we observe for several miles there is a channal running parallel with the river Kabini and the projectors of the two paper works that are to be constituted at Nanjangud have inv- gated the facilities of transport of bamboos from the forest water to Nanjangud and contemplate undertaking, presumably subj to the permission by the Mysore Government, to improve its w facilities. We have got already the loodd support and co-operation of Messrs. Kably brothers who own some land wh they are placing at our disposal for small nurseries but we require very large nurseries of bulbils and the plant hi we have put in seven years ago which have now reac and are poling and giving often about 1000 the pole. Under these circumstanc whether it will be convenient or pos

No D 7325-7
12-11-47

To.
1) The Dir of Ind
2) The Dir of Agr
3) Major C.S. Gale Collector
B.G.

Dear Sir,

Sisal Fibre industry

In continuation of this office
letter No. D.6566-8 dated 24-3-47.
on the above subject, I am desired
to inform you that a
postponed meeting will be held
on Thursday the 14th April 47
at 9 A.M. in the chamber of
the Min of Ind, at the old
Public Offices. Bolan You
are requested to be present
at the meeting.

Yours
Asst
Industries.

To C.S. & P.A. to
Min of Ind.
12/4

**GOVERNMENT OF HIS HIGHNESS THE MAHARAJA OF MYSORE.**

No. **General and Revenue Secretariat,**

*Dated Bangalore,* 12th APRIL *19*

FROM

*The Secretary to the Government of*
*His Highness the Maharaja of Mysore.*
Development Department

To

~~X~~Sir,

Dear Sir,

SUBJECT:- RE: SISAL FIBRE INDUSTRY.
**********

In continuation of this office letter No.D.6566-8 dated the ~~22nd~~ 24th March 1949, on the ab-ove subject, I am desired to inform you that a meeting will be held on Thursday the 14th April 1949, at 9 A.M. in the Chambers of the Minister for Finance & Industries, at the Old Public Offices, Bangalore. You are requested to be present at the meeting.

Yours faithfully,

SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT
DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

6564
Dte.

Office of the Minister for Finance and Industries
No. P.2626/48-9 @
7752
AF

Oaklipuram, Bangalore City,
22nd May, 1948

GENERAL SECRETARIAT
15 JUN 1948
A & F BRANCH

Dear Mr. Dasappa,

Dev. Secy

With reference to my detailed letter of this date, I want to get the machines going at once as explained in the letter and would like to instal the raspador and decorticator as well as the 50/60 h.p. motor to run it and simultaneously order of the No.4 Robey's raspadors costing about Rs.8000 and at the same time to layout the nurseries. Can you let me have an advance of Rs.25/30.000 to deal with this matter on the security of the machinery and my personal guarantee?

Yours sincerely,

C. Kasiliengar

* This relates to the Sisal Plantation of the file under subject has been ordered to be transferred to the Ministry of Agr. & L. Accordingly the file has been transferred to the A & F Br. This may be ~~sent~~ to A transferred to A & F Branch for further action.

In this connection the third para may be transferring this to A & F Branch for further necessary action

Dev Secy 1/6

Gen. Secy (I/c) 7/6

A.F. Branch 7/6

A & F B. to put up for the file may be received 7/6

Secy (I/c) 7/6

"Oaklipuram," Bangalore City.
22nd May, 1949.

Dear Mr. Dasappa,

Thanks very much forseeing me the other morning. I decided that it would be far better to get the machinery going before inviting H.E. the Governor General to come and see our efforts and I am starting now as far as possible to shape the whole unit so that the Ministers and other local authorities can see what is needed and how the venture will work to produce fibre that has been long our goal. His Excellency was greatly interested and promised to give the venture his benedidion; I also mentioned that you had also taken it under your wing and he promised to discuss the matter with you if he saw you before heileft. I am now going to write to you to ask for a grant, a little bit more than Chatterton asked for so that by August when the next meeting is, we will have the machinery ready. I have discussed the matter with my Sisal Engineer who ran the Anantapur factory for me for 7 years and he says there is no diffulty in getting the plant working long before the Cocoanut Committee meeting in August and I am laying it all out so that the representative of Govt. of Mysore as well as the representative of the Govt of India could see it. I am a bit puzzled as to the best way of working the matter but I am going to deal with it myself personally and make myself personally responsible for any advance and to secure it with material that I have such as the Decroticator, raspador, road train etc.

Yours sincerely,

C. Chatterton

"Oaklipuram, Bangalore City,
22nd May, 1949.

From

Major C.B.Oakley, V.D., A.M.I.M.E. etc.
Oaklipuram Bangalore city.

To

The Minister for Industries and Finance,
Government of Mysore,
Bangalore.

Dear Sir,

Sisal.

With reference to the various negotiations that have taken place on the subject of the development of sisal fibre as an ad interim measure irrespective of the general scheme is ultimately put into progress, as Mr. Setti, the Agricultural Commissioner indicates that the Cocoanut Fibre Committee meeting will be meeting in August and has expressed the wish that something very tangible should be possible, at any rate, before he comes and that he indicated, as I have already mentioned, he is prepared to back the scheme, I propose to use for this demonstration unit or Research station the decorticating machinery which I value at least at half a lakh of rupees and my nurseries have cost me a great deal more than that, and in order that we may get to work immediately and put in the foundations, I am prepared to allot a piece of land, 2 acres, for the purpose of this Fibre Company and will be glad to know if the Government of H.H. the Maharaja of Mysore would be prepared to advance me Rs.25.000 on the security of the machinery and my own personal guarantee, and if this can be done, we would start work at once and be producing as we have enough leaves round Bangalore to keep the machine employed one or two days a week. I anticipate being able to pay this loan off within five years in annual instalments or as soon as the unit is sold to Company as suggested by the Director of Agriculture.

If you could see your way also to order on my behalf or permit me to order from Messrs. Robey and Co., their No.4 double drum unit, and if it can be arranged with the Electrical Department to either lend us or sell us a 50/60 h.p. motor and supply power, you can rely on me to get the unit going and the nurseries in training by August next. There is ample room to do it at

Oaklipuram being also a terminus of no less than five railway lines, where hedges are available, given permission to cut.

Yours faithfully,

C S Arthey

6561 1910 AF

Major C.B.Oakley, V.D. Oaklipuram, Bangalore City.
31st August. 1949.

GENERAL & REVENUE SECRETARIAT 3 SEP 1949

Hon'ble Sri H.C.Dasappa,
Minister for Finance and Industries,
Government of Mysore,
Bangalore.

P.521
5.9.49.

Dear Sir,

With reference to our interview with you at the commencement of last week on the subject of sisal development in Mysore, my assistant Mr. C. Bheemasena Rao has put up the scheme which I have pleasure in forwarding to you for perusal and such suitable action as you deem fit.

Assuring you of my co-operation in any measure that you may take to foster this industry, which I feel is one of promise,

I remain,

Yours faithfully,

C.B. Oakley

CBR.

Dev. Secy.

This is an industry which should be started. It has an assured future. This scheme may be taken up with the [illegible]. The matter must be pursued vigorously.

H.C.D.
1/9/49.

The main file may please be sent

SECY DEV DEPTT GOVT OF MYSORE

Gl. Secy W/c

7/9

SECY DEV DEPTT 21 SEP GOVT OF MYSORE

SECRETARY TO GOVT. GENERAL DEPARTMENTS No. Date 20/9

[illegible] the file is [illegible]

16.9

GENERAL DEPARTMENTS Date 9/9

9/9

XXX

16/9

16/9

21/9

SECY DEV DEPTT 26 OCT. GOVT. OF MYSORE 177

Dev Secy

Dept [illegible] of Bangalore 471

25/10

Bangalore, 28th August, 1949.

Memorandum by Mr. C. Bheemasena Rao,
regarding a scheme for Development
of Sisal Fibre Industry in Mysore.
**********

1. Acknowledgment. I pay my tribute to Major C.B.Oakley who has, despite his age and handicaps, with a zeal characteristic of pioneers and savants, often unmindful of costs or consequences to him, followed this idea for nearly two decades. My association with him in the subject has been quite a privilege.

2. Scope. This note is primarily for the investor. Therefore, aspects bearing on the history of Sisal, its career in other parts of the world earning for it the encomium of being the Green Gold of Africa, its national importance to our great Dominion with its programme of maritime expansion, its economic advantage to Mysore in providing an exportable raw product, patriotic necessity to rewrite its history in India anew expunging its old -- these political, economic and historical aspects - are reserved for treatment elsewhere. We, here, confine ourselves to its financial aspect.

3. Plant. It is absolutely essential that the estate should be grown with the plant "Agave Sisalana", a variety of the genus "Agave Rigida". The outstanding virtues of this particular variety are that it contains the highest fibre content, its fibre is the silkiest and strongest, and for marine cordage and military use, has been proved the best of hard fibres. Consequently, it commands the best price.

4. Market. The first question that an investor asks is: Is there a firm, fair and steady market? We have on the authority of no less than Mr. J.S.Quin, the Rope Adviser to the Government of India and President of the Rope Manufacturer's

Association and who, in directing the Ganges Rope Works of Calcutta producing 50% of Indian cordage, consumes 2000 tons of fibre per annum, assures us that there is every possibility of a very steady demand, definitely an increasing one on the basis of Indian consumption alone. It is the general world view, as it is Mr. Quin's, that the prices will rule at the present levels for years to come, as there is a definite shortage of this fibre and its use is increasing.

5. Price. The price per cwt. of this fibre now is Rs.60 per cwt. f.o.r. Calcutta - or Rs.1200 a ton. The finished rope fetches about Rs.2500 per ton and is therefore a progressive industry.

6. Area. Mr. Quin would like us to bid for a target of 5000 tons of fibre per annum which is the peace time demand of India. But with the difficulties of area, capital and other handicaps, as we have to cut new ground in more senses than one, and as previous experience has not been happy, a cautious attempt at bringing into being an initial 1000 acres is the subject of this memorandum.

7. Block system. As the plant dies out at the end of 9th year, and as it does not yield a harvest until it is four years old, a system of laying every year new ground under new plantation is most usually adopted. This ensures continuous production for the mill, which involving the bulk of the capital cost. For the sake of clarity of the case, though we shall have this block system in view, we shall focus our attention on costs of the primary unit of 1000 acres.

8. Number of plants to the acre. It may be a truism, but, for emphasis, let me say it. Naturally, the more number of successful plants grown to the acre, the more fibre production to the acre, at less cost per ton. In the early days, they started with 600 plants to the acre, which gave way to 900 plants to the acre until it rose to the normal vogue of 1200/1300 plants to the acre. This is about the world norm.

But the modern practice in Africa is to grow 2000 plants per acre, in double rows, with 12 to 13 ft. corridors, the plants in the line put in at 4' x 4' or even 3' x 2' 6". As Mysore Plateaux offers identical conditions to the best sisal areas of Africa, there is no reason why we should not keep abreast of modern proved practice. But, for the purpose of our discussion, let us base our figures on 1210 plants to the acre.

9. Life and Leaf Yield. The life of the plant differs in various parts of the world tending to quick poling in mid-tropical zones with heavy rainfall. But, the number of leaves per plant has been found to be the same per plant. The Advisory Committee of the Vegetable Fibres of the Imperial Institute have laid it down that each plant in Africa, yields 250 to 300 leaves, during its life of 7 to 8 years. As Mysore approximates to conditions in Kenya, we would take the mean of these two figures - viz., 275 leaves per plant. The yield of mature leaves would be as follows:

| | |
|---|---|
| 1st Year..... | No leaves. |
| 2nd Year..... | No leaves. |
| 3rd Year..... | No leaves. |
| 4th Year..... | 70 leaves in two cuttings. |
| 5th Year..... | 50 leaves in two cuttings. |
| 6th Year..... | 50 leaves in two cuttings. |
| 7th year..... | 50 leaves in two cuttings. |
| 8th year..... | 50 leaves in two cuttings. |
| 9th year..... | Balance. |

We have taken one year more and allowed for expenses for that year also.

10. Fibre Yield. Old references based on fewer plants to the acre refer to half and threequarters ton per acre. Modern African practice is to look to 1½ ton per acre even on the basis of 1210 plants to the acre. The Fibre Engineer's art consists in the art of getting the maximum percentage of sound fibre from the leaf. This is achieved by cutting properly matured leaves, and using high class decorticating machinery. The average weight of each leaf is 2 lbs. It yields 3 to 4% of dry fibre, or 60 to 80 lbs. of fibre per 1000 leaves. In Bangalore,

it has been proved that a full grown leaf weighs more than 2½ lbs. and fully contains 4%. This is demonstrable. Dutch East Indies seem to have scored over African Engineers in being able to get a better output per leaf. Modern machines are continually improving and manufacturers are very keenly alive to the difference in result between a 3% and 4% yield. We can have the very best machine and the latest after very careful examination. For our purpose, we shall take the minimum of 3% yield. Then, 1210 plants to the acre, yielding 275 leaves of an average green weight of 2 lbs. each, with an extractable percentage of three only, a thousand-acres unit will produce in its life,

19,965,000 lbs. or 8913 tons of fibre.

Let us discard the odd 913 tons as a margin for safety, and we get 8000 tons of fibre. This would average 1 ton to the acre and is a happy mean of the "half ton" and "one and half ton" views.

11. Value. The value of these 8000 tons of fibre at the present prices of Rs.1200 per ton f.o.r. Calcutta, would be Rs.96,00,000.

12. Preliminary Expenses. Looking at the expense side to obtain the 96 lakhs value, the first item would be preliminary expenses. A sum of Rs.5000 would cover the registration of the company and incidentals in this connection.

13. Land cost. For a 1000-acres plantation, we shall need an additional 100 acres adjacent to it to provide for Nursery, (which will absorb about 55 acres) a factory site, drying yard, tank, office and labour quarters, roads and allowances for unculturable patches. If the block system is adopted a further 1000 acres is to be thought of. The value of this primary 1100 acres will depend on the Government's view. idea. Prices have ranged from Rs.3 an acre to Rs.30. We may take a mean of Rs.15 which gives us Rs.16,500.

14. Agricultural Equipment. The initial expenditure would be primarily agricultural. The following equipment would be a good start.

| | |
|---|---|
| A. Tractor equipment (if we decide to own our unit and not hire it from government)..... | Rs.10,000. |
| B. Agricultural implements. (Incidence per acre Rs.10)..... | Rs.10,000. |
| C. Pumping equipment..... | Rs. 5,000. |
| D. Plough cattle..... | Rs. 3,000. |
| E. Estate car..... | Rs. 5,000. |
| F. Six bicycles..... | Rs. 1,500. |
| G. Miscellaneous..... | Rs. 500. |
| | Rs.35,000. |

This capital expenditure on the mobile side of the programme is the first requisite.

15. Preparation of the Estate. It is assumed that no heavy jungle is to be cleared. In Africa some of them, beyond clearing shrub growth, do not give any further agricultural attention. But well-kept progressive estates provide careful agricultural attention, as it also helps to obtain catch crops, and the corridor system enables mechanically propelled agricultural operations being conducted.

| | |
|---|---|
| A. Tractor ploughing of the area to turn up the ~~area~~ soil and aerating it. Government tractor units do it at Rs.4 per acre. We shall take it at Rs.5 to include supervision..... | Rs.5,000. |
| B. Shrub clearance, weeding, hoeing, lime treatment if necessary, and other preliminary agricultural operations. Rs. 5 an acre..... | Rs.5,000. |
| | Rs.10,000. |

16. Protective measures. It would be prudent to indulge in a few protective measures to stop gullying in the estate, provide rivetments to stop soil erosion, put-up inspection tracks, culverts, bundings, hedgings, trimming of water courses. &c., An overall expenditure of Rs.7/8 per acre would help a great deal. Total cost Rs.7,500.

17. Nursery. "Suckers" or small plants that grow from the rootstock can be planted direct but the number available

is very small indeed, and would only be available when large scale estates are bearing. We shall have to depend on the "bulbils" or seedlings that are shed by mature poles of the sisal plant. These bulbils have to be nursed carefully and tended for a period of about 9 months, the beds being well manured and scrupulously guarded, until the plants grow to 10/12" when they are to be planted in the estate in small shallow pits when the first rains have set in. The quality of the nursery product will decide the quality of the estate and hence, the need for care. Basing on 1210 plants to the acre, and allowing for 10% for losses, and rejects of inferior material, we need 1331 bulbils per acre, or a total of 13,31,000 bulbils. Each acre of nursery beds will accommodate about 25,000 bulbils which would entail a nursery space of 53 acres. Let us take it as 55 acres. This must be adjacent to the estate as it would then enable speedy transplanting, cut transportation costs and will cause minimum of injury to the plants. Nursery costs would be as follows.

| | |
|---|---|
| A. Preparing nursery beds: 10 coolies per acre per day for 8 days at Re.1 per cooly (10 x 55 x 8 x 1)..... | Rs.4,400. |
| B. Cost of Bulbils. The usual accepted value is about Rs.10 per thousand of seedlings collected from the poles. The cost of 13,31,000 bulbils would be ..... | Rs.13,310. |
| C. planting of bulbils into the beds. 5 coolies per acre for 8 days at Re.1 per day (5 x 55 x 8 x 1)..... | Rs. 2.200. |
| D. Cleaning, watching, filling up vacancies, weeding, watering, tending for 6 months at 1 cooly for 2 acres - 25 coolies per month at Re.1 per day (25 x 30 x 6)..... | Rs.4,500. |
| E. Manuring, shading etc. Rs.5 per acre. | Rs. 275. |
| F. Fencing with milk hedge. Lumpsum. | Rs. 675. |
| G. Night watchmen, three at Rs.30 a month for nine months. (3 x 30 x 9)..... | Rs. 810. |
| H. Nursery superviser at Rs.100 a month for nine months. he must be one who knows his business. | Rs. 900. |
| I. Transport of bulbils, freight if any, miscellaneous unforeseens. | Rs.2,930. |
| | Rs.30.000 |

The incidence of expenditure on the large estate would be

Rs.30 per acre, and an intensive incidence on the nursery at Rs.545 per acre, a very generous allowance.

18. Planting. When the rains set in and when the seedlings have grown 10/12" these are transplanted to the estate.

A. Pitting, removal of plants from nursery to site, trimming the plants over 1000 acres, basing on 133 plants per cooly working day, 13,31,000 plants would need. Rs.10.000.

B. Actual planting in of the plants, at 1210 plants to the acre, ~~same~~, at 5 minutes labour per plant, or 120 plants to the hour, 10 hours working, 10.000 cooly labour units at Re.1 a day..... Rs. 10,000.

Item B has been taken in a slight excess to include after-care. The total of these two items ~~are~~ to Rs.20,000 or an incidence of Rs.20 per acre.

19. Management. Once the plants are in, the long wait - a vigilant wait - begins. It is however now that the future of the estate is made -- or marred. Therefore, the management must be a far-sighted one and intelligent, and care and attention bestowed in this formative stage have dividend values. A fair sized African estate is always under the watch of a very superior European Manager ably assisted by Assistant Managers who would appear to be very enviably placed. But dividends have told that it pays to pay well here. We, however, adopt the following modest schedule.

| | Per annum. |
|---|---|
| A. Manager at Rs. 750 per month. | Rs. 9,000. |
| B. Two assistant Managers to enable the Manager to travel about and visit foreign countries to study practice if need be - at Rs.500 each - Rs.1000 a month..... | Rs. 12.000. |
| C. Four Block supervisers - senior grade agricultural men - the estate being divided into four zones, each superviser concentrating on one, Rs.150 a month to each superviser, (4 x 150 x 12). | Rs. 7,200. |
| D. Ten Agricultural Overseers in subordinate charge of 100 acre blocks each. Rs.75 per month. (75 x 10 x 12)..... | Rs. 9,000. |
| E. Permanent agricultural labour to help the above at 4 coolies for each sub-overseer at Rs.30 per month per cooly 40 x 30 x 12. | Rs.14.400. |

B/f. Rs.51.600

F. Office staff. Accountant Rs.250 per month; two assistants at Rs.100 each; typist at Rs.100 p.m.; two clerks at Rs.60 each; 2 peons at Rs.45 each - in all Rs.900 a month including Rs.140 per month for stationery postage and contingencies. (900 x 12)..... Rs.10.800.

G. Analytical charges, research, library service, ameneties Rs.150 a month. Rs. 1.800.

H. Miscellaneous expenses unforeseen. Rs. 800.

Rs.65.000.

This establishment would be the permanent feature for 9 years, and at this imposing rate, would cost Rs.5,85,000 in all. It should be borne in mind that if this combination allowing for great co-operative intelligence, could produce but 500 tons more than the 8000 tons we have hoped for, they would bring 6 lakhs value into the till and pay their wages off for the whole of 9 years. Just as we want the best plants, we want the best men, and as many of them.

20. Estate buildings. The major portion of the investment would be in equipping the estate with quarters. It is possible to go slow and cut costs if we are near well populated villages. If we take a very limited view of the estate of say 8/9 years, we may compromise on points. This would largely depend on the temperament of the Board, managing the company. The following would be workable data.

A. Staff quarters - 25 blocks at Rs.2000 each block..... Rs.50.000.

B. Labour colony to house permanent estate labour 50 blocks ~~wit~~ at Rs.1000 each..... Rs.50.000.

C. Quarters for Manager and Assistant Managers..... Rs.10.000.

D. Office buildings. ..... Rs. 5.000.

E. Office equipment and furnishings.... Rs. 2.500

F. Dispensary..... Rs. 2.500.

G. Car shed..... Rs. 1.000.

H. Tractor shed..... Rs. 1.000.

I. Battle shed..... Rs. 2.000.

J. Library/ community hall..... Rs. 1.000.

Rs.125.000.

21. Harvest. Revenues are derivable when the plantation yields leaves in the fourth year. As we have taken 3% yield

as our basis, ~~it means~~ one ton of dry fibre would mean decortication of 33.33 (33.1/3) tons of green leaf. Each leaf weighs 2 lbs. Therefore, we need 37,330 leaves to get one ton of decorticated fibre. The cost per ton would be as follows:

| | Per ton. of fibre. |
|---|---|
| A. Cutting of leaves: An average African cuts 2000 leaves per day and experienced men go up to 4000 leaves per day. The Indian labourer is no less deft when trained, but we take only 1000 leaves per day. To cut 38.000 leaves we need 38 coolies at Re.1 per day. | Rs.38. |
| B. 15 women coolies spine the leaves, viz., cut off the thorny tips, and thorny sides where they occur, (as true sisal has no thorny sides) and 25 women coolies bundle the leaves ready for loading into the lorry (or tram line truck that is provided on large estates). 40 women labour at 12 annas per day. | Rs.30. |
| C. 5 men coolies to load into the lorry at Re. 1 per day per cooly. | Rs. 5. |
| D. Transport to the estate factory. The factory if centrally situated in a 1½ sq. mile area (1000 acres) it would not be more than ¾ mile from its extreme points. But taking 1 mile average lead if the estate is not a square, and taking running costs as under present contract rates (which would include wages of driver, petrol or oil) of Re.1 per mile load, 33 tons of material would cost..... | Rs.33. |
| Total cost to bring the harvest to the factory.. | Rs.106. |

This lead of green material is the most vital of all Expenses, ~~operations~~ as about 200 tons of material has to be hauled to get but about 6 tons a day of fibre. The cutting, bundling and transporting may be thrown open to competitive contract rates and thereby considerable reduction might be possible; There would be good bidding as this would give very steady business daily. But we have taken the departmental basis as it would prevent risks of indiscriminate cutting of immature leaves by contract labour or rough handling of the plants by them, injuring the plant values.

22. Decorticating Factory. This is the next important capital expenditure item in the programme. There are quite a number of decorticator makers. The German Corona and English

Robey machines have earned a considerable reputation. Decorticating standards are improving every day reaching very great efficiency, the units becoming works of art. The prices are based on current rates but when the estate comes into decortication, the world recovery programmes would have been greatly solved, and machinery items might slump in price while gaining more efficiency than today. The following is a unit to deal with our 1000 acres.

A.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| A. | Factory building, 6000 sq.feet. | Rs.18.000. |
| B. | Electrical unit to provide 250 horsepower, installation and auxiliaries..... | Rs.50.000. |
| C. | Decorticator. 180 h.p. unit.... | Rs.60.000. |
| D. | Three Brushing machines..... | Rs.15.000. |
| E. | 1 baling press..... | Rs.10.000. |
| F. | Erection charges. (we are providing for a permanent factory management and therefore we are not taking an excessive sum.)..... | Rs.15.000. |
| G. | Tram lines to convey waste..... | Rs. 3.000. |
| H. | Tipping trucks to convey waste.. | Rs. 2.000. |
| | | Rs.173.000 |

B.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| A. | 5 lorries to carry leaves to the factory and finished produce to station. | Rs.40.000. |
| B. | Lorry sheds. | Rs. 2.000. |
| C. | Fire prevention equipment. | Rs. 2.000. |
| D. | Fibre godown. | Rs. 4.000. |
| E. | Tool room. | Rs. 1.000. |
| F. | Water tanks. | Rs. 6.000. |
| G. | General unforeseen items. | Rs. 3.000. |
| | | Rs.57.000. |

Total capital expenditure on the factory - Rs.230.000.

23. Factory Management. This, in conformity with the general efficiency, has also to be high class as despite the massive nature of the machinery, they are most delicately conceived in their efficient performance, demanding considerable finesse in getting maximum effects. As the works will deal with about 200 tons of material per day, the functioning of each part has to be co-ordinated by careful division of labour. The following management would be necessary.

Per annum.

| | Per annum. |
|---|---|
| | Rs. |
| A. An Engineer on Rs.350 a month. | 4,200. |
| B. Two assistant engineers or foremen at Rs.150 each.p.m. | 3,600. |
| C. Six cleaners at Rs.30 per month. | 2,160. |
| D. Consumable stores, spares, replacements, oil, grease etc. at Rs.500 a month..... | 6.000. |
| E. Factory lighting, tax etc. at Rs.100 a month..... | 1.200. |
| F. Miscellaneous unforeseen items. | 840. |
| | 18.000. |

Basing on 300 working days, the cost per working day would be Rs.60.

24. Decortication. Taking an average of 55 leaves per plant per annum with 1210 plants to the acre on an estate of 1000 acres, allowing only for 300 working days, the rest of the days being allowed for idling and cleaning of machinery, the factory has to deal with (1210 x 1000 x 55 divided by 300) 2,21,833 leaves per day. This would yield on the basis of 3%, on an average weight of 2 lbs., per leaf, 5.92 tons per working day, of finished fibre. The largest size decorticator is claimed to deal with about 18,000 leaves per hour. Allowing for sales talk, we might base on 16,000 leaves per hour as actual, as this depends on regular feeding of the leaves and getting the best out of the machine. To deal with 2,21,833 leaves this machine would have to work 14½ hours. Allowing for labour intervals, this would mean 16 hours working with two shifts. The labour needed for each shift would be as follows:

| | Number of coolies per shift. |
|---|---|
| A. To take the loads off the lorries to machine loading platform. | 8. |
| B. To spread the leaves on the conveyor chain. 12 on each side. | 24. |
| C. To receive the fibre at the discharge end. | 3. |
| D. Washers and rinsers of decorticated fibre. | 6. |
| E. To carry the fibre to the drying yard. | 4. |
| F. Drying yard attendants. | 4. |
| G. Brushing machine feeders. | 6. |
| | 55 |

| | Coolies per shift. |
|---|---|
| B/F. | 55. |
| H. Baling machine attendants. | 6. |
| I. Godown cooly. | 1. |
| J. Waste trammers. | 8. |
| | 70. |

For Two shifts, we need 140 labourers at Re.1 per shift per cooly, the cost is Rs.140 per day.

Some of the coolies may be female labour (or boys) in which event certain economies could be effected in this recurring expenditure.

Modern machine makers tend to mechanise much of this treatment making it automatic and offer us centrifuges, apron driers and graders. Dutch East Indies have made liberal use of some of these as they have many rainy days in the year. The manufacturers claim that machine dried and graded fibre fetches Rs.15/- to Rs.30/- per ton more and thus that this auxiliary plant pays for itself. We however shall depend on manual labour for washing, rinsing, drying in open yard under the tropical sun, and grading.

25. Power. The factory would need the following power:

| | |
|---|---|
| A. Decorticator - | 180 h.p. |
| B. Three brushing machines. | 15 h.p. |
| C. Baling press. | 10 h.p. |
| D. Water pumps. | 10 h.p. |
| E. Miscellaneous extra | 10 h.p. |
| | 225 h.p. |

The above energy would be needed for 14½ hours work every day and taking the power costs at about Rs.10 per hour, a sum of Rs.150 per working day would cover the power bill. The Government of Mysore who would be producing enormous Jog power by the time, might give the very best of terms on the ground of this being a nascent industry. Any reduction in such a recurring expense would help a great deal.

26. Depreciation. It would be seen that the factory capital cost inclusive of lorries amounts to Rs.230,000. (Para 22) Although none of the machinery would be worne out at the end of five years, as we are limiting our discussion to the life of one estate, it may be prudent to write off this investment in five years - or 20% per annum. The depreciation fund could be converted to a sinking fund for major renovations at the end

of the period. A depreciation at this rate would mean a charge on the working costs of Rs.46,000 per annum, or Rs.153 a day based on 300 working days. It would be about Rs.25 a ton of decorticated fibre.

27. Transport to Station. We have not yet decided the venue of the estate. We shall assume that we have a railway loading point within a maximum distance of 10 miles from the factory connected by a fair road. On the basis we have adopted of 1 rupee per ton mile (inclusive of wages of driver, oil etc.) the charge would be Rs.10 per ton.

28. Station charges. It would be necessary to have a small godown with a clerk and about four coolies in charge, to handle the bales. The establishment would not cost more than Rs.2000 a year, and allowing for other usual station contingencies, a charge of Rs.2 per ton would amply cover this item. Basing on about 1600 tons of fibre per annum, this would be Rs.3200 per annum.

29. Rail transport to Calcutta. The special station-to-station rate in vogue during the previous years from Chakarlapalli station in the Anantapur taluk to Calcutta was about Rs.55 per ton. Owing to absence of traffic, the rate lapsed. The non-special rate is now about Rs.100 per ton. The Indian Railway administration in consultation with the Defence Department (as also later the Communications department as sisal fibre is assuming importance also as the central core of cables and India is bidding to be a manufactuer of communication cables) might be prevailed upon to extend the most advantageous rate and perhaps restore it to the previous level of Rs.55. We shall, however, take Rs.100 per ton as our charge.

If so, one plays with the thought that if we have to pay Rs.100 a ton on railway freight carrying the raw product to the mill, on 8000 tons it would be 8 lakhs and if this sum could be invested in a rope making factory adjacent to the estate, the freight alone would pay for the factory for rope making. But let us walk before we run.

30. Summary of costs. From the foregoing remarks, we summarise the cost position as below.

| Item. | Para. | Cost per ton. Rs. |
|---|---|---|
| A. Cutting of leaves. | 21. | 38. |
| B. Spining and bundling. | 21. | 30. |
| C. Loading on the field. | 21. | 5. |
| D. Transport to factory. | 21. | 33. |
| (Decortication costs per day divided by 5.92 tons per day output) | | |
| | Rs | |
| E. Factory Management | 60. | 23.) |
| F. Factory labour. | 140. | 24.) |
| G. Power. | 150. | 25.) |
| H. Depreciation. | 153. | 26.) |
| | 503. | ) |
| (divided by 5.92)..... | | ) 85. |
| I. Transport to station.... | | 10. |
| J. Station loading charges. | | 2. |
| K. Railway freight - arbitrary. | | 100. |
| Total cost. | | 303. |

31. Summary of capital incidence. The following is the order and pattern of expenditure.

| Item. | Para. | Amount. Rs |
|---|---|---|
| A. Preliminary expenses. | 12. | 5,000. |
| B. Land cost. 1100 acres. | 13. | 16,500. |
| C. Agricultural equipment. | 14. | 35,000. |
| D. Preparation of estate. | 15. | 10,000. |
| E. Protective measures. | 16. | 7,500. |
| F. Nursery. ... | 17. | 30,000. |
| G. Planting. ... | 18. | 20,000. |
| H. Estate Buildings. | 20. | 125,000. |
| | | 249.000. |
| The above would be required in the First/second year of the estate. | | |
| I. Factory. (in the 4th year) | 22. | 230,000. |
| Total. | | 479.000. |

Say, 5 lakhs. That would allow for an extra 1000 acres. (land cost)

32. Revenue expenditure. During the first four years, the outlay in management would represent Rs.65,000 per annum with no return except for possible catch crop yields. This is the inevitable period of incubation of a sisal estate. The production costs commence when the factory management begin to erect the factory and decorticate the leaves. The cost of Rs.300 per ton would

be Rs.55,000 a month. When the factory is producing, the monthly revenue expenditure would be in the order of about Rs.60/62,000.

33. Profits. We now come to the crux of the proposition. From our previous depositions, we arrive at the following elemental position.

| | |
|---|---|
| Taking only 8000 tons as the yield basing on Rs.1200 per ton f.o.r Calcutta, the realisable value is | Rs.96,000,00. |
| Deduct cost of production of fibre at Rs.303 per ton (para 30) on 8000 tons. . . . . | Rs.24,240,00. |
| Balance. | Rs.71,760,00. |
| Deduct General management expenses (para 19). | Rs. 5,850,00. |
| Balance. | Rs.65,910,00 |
| Deduct capital to be refunded.... (Rs.479,000 less Rs.230,000 written off in production account, see para 31 and 26)..... | Rs. 2,490,00. |
| S u r p l u s..... | Rs.63,420,00 |

Rs.63.000,00// over 9 years would be Green Gold of Mysore. This however is subject to deductions for Income Tax, Land tax, sales tax, managing agency commission if a managing agency is incorporated, Directors fees and auditor's fees, foreign tours to study, future development, re-planting, research and all such generous activities that one is prone to be heir to in affluence.

At first sight, the figure would appear a little startling but when one remembers that in pre-war days, estates in Africa worked to great profits even when the price level was about £.20/30 c.i.f per ton of fibre of first class grade, inclusive of a freight rate of about £.5 to the ton, there is no overdraft on my imagination in presenting the above position.

But let me take my worst critic. He will quote that half ton per acre is the rule and 1 ton is fanciful. If so, the realisable value will be 48 lakhs, and production of 4000 tons would cost 12,120,00 leaving about 35 lakhs to cover about 7 lakhs of management and capital investment resulting in

a handsome surplus even to weather a price fall of several hundred rupees per ton and still not incur a loss. Therefore, I make bold to state that prima facie there is a very good case for initiation of the ~~xxxxxx~~ industry in Mysore State, and there need be no room for caution of the paralysing variety. On the other hand, there is no reason why we should not duplicate the modern conditions of Africa or Dutch# East Indies and go one better as nature is as kind to us as it is to them in reference to this particular plant. The market conditions on all hands assure us that a price fall in fibre is unlikely for a very long time to come, at least a decade. We must sow quickly if we must reap quickly. It is recognised to be a national necessity. We must aim at intensive cultivation as even 100 plants to the acre more than our basis of 1210 would result in a yield of 735 tons more fibre from the 1000 acres unit.

34. Bye-products. We have not taken into consideration all the side issues of the proposition - the manurial value of the begasse which is a very high class manure, most avidly consumed by coffee and tea planters when available as mulch for their fields, and as valuable manure for the estate itself; the liquor of the plant has many byproducts which is the object of experimental research on a vast scale - we might however prefer to wait and see in all these matters until these are translated to profit earning realities.

35. Conclusion. A combination of interests such as Mr. Quin offers, with the active co-operation of the Government of Mysore who have ever been in the vanguard of industrial progress ever since the ruling house fostered far sighted industrial policies, with the economic necessity of the Government of India re-orientating their approach to such national industries and helping Mysore where climate, rainfall, altitude, labour conditions favour the initial attempt, with the advantage of Major C.B. Oakley having done a considerable amount of spade work and having a valuable nucleus to start the estate with, I feel it

# A p p e n d i x.

1. After making out the case, I felt I may be open to the criticism that there is possibly a dark obverse to the disc which I have not been wittingly at equal pains to show, and therefore, guilty of partial suppression of truth or suggestion of falsity. So, I add this note by way of an epilogue, to be deemed as part of my previous presentation.

2. In the absence of Indian data, I have had to rely largely on foreign literature with my experience of having run an estate as my back ground. In the case of a plant that has found its abode in so far-flung parts of the two hemispheres, with varieties of terrain, rainfalls, climates, it would not be surprising to have varied experiences. I have had to sift out conditions most approximating to Mysore.

3. I shall now take the reader into my confidence and treat him to the extremes in the case.

The number of plants to the acre has varied from as low a figure as 600 to as many as 3000 plants to the acre with 9 feet between the rows, the plants being as near one another as 30 inches in the row.

The life and leaf yield have been related, and sometimes the plant is known to finish its cycle of life in six years, three of which have been productive, and on the other hand, plants have lived 22/24 years yielding leaves. The minimum number of leaves has been as low as 161 and the maxima have ranged from 600 to 700 leaves.

The dry fibre output per acre has been as low as 1½ tons and as high as 12 tons during the life of the estate.

Some plants are ready for cutting at the 3rd year and some are not till the 6th year.

Some estates have functioned successfully as small holdings in some parts with a co-operative mill provided by a Government and some estates have been single units with as many as 16 high powered decorticators working day and night, seven days in the week.

There have been violent spasms in the price fluctuations the price falling as low as £.15 a ton and rising as high as £.100. £.30 price is considered as the limit below which an estate gets into difficulties. The price in various countries has differed owing to unfriendly and harmful tariff barriers made by politicians.

Some estates have started with an initial capital of £.4000 with machinery of £.5000 and succeeded; others consider that a sound modern machine unit alone should be taken at not less than £.30,000.

Fibre has been produced in German East Africa (1930) at as low as £12 a ton inclusive of £.1 freight to railway and they have managed to make 20/30% profit on the lowest price levels. On some estates 300 labour units have mangged to produce 3 tons a day and on others 400 labour units managed to get only 2 tons a day. Some machine makers claim that their complete factories could be run with less than 20 labourers.

Plants have thriven at sealevel as also at altitudes of 7000 feet. They have grown on rocky barren lands and also on rich humus covered forest land. But most of them are agreed

that an altitude of 2500 feet and below with distributed rainfall and good humidity with permeable loamy soil preventing water logging of the roots, with presence of lime in the soil as the optimum to look for.

Extraction of fibre. This has ranged from as low a figure of 2.32% to as high as 3.6% over such large tonnages as 50,000 tons of green material per annum yielding 18.000 tons of dry fibre. This problem of extraction is constantly before engineers and a Leeds firm (1930) is said to have put a plant that extracts almost 3.99%.

4. Data regarding this important industry is changing day to day that it would be unwise to be dogmatic in the negative sphere. Chemists are fighting its battle in the laboratories as planters are doing in the field with machine men doing their best in the workshops. Considerable amount of machinery are devised to deal with the refuse and redeeming the broken fibres, known as Tow. Some chemists have tried to make it a plant miracle and have a fantastic array of derivatives from the refuse of the plant.

5. In the midst of such varied experiences in so many parts of the world, a true mean has to be sought. So taking conditions in Mysore, I felt that the results of labours of a band of unimpeachable workers like the Advisory Committee on Vegetable fibres of the Imperial Institute as fairly reliable. (Vide Bulletin E.M.B.10 of the Empire Marketing Board pages 11 and 13. The following are extracts: (October 1926)

"The space allowed to each plant varies a good deal in practice but perhaps the most satisfactory plan is to set the plants in rows about 8 feet apart with consecutive plants about six feet from one another in the row. This arrangement gives 48 square feet to each plant and provides for about 900 plants per acre. This is the most usual spacing given in the Highlands of East Africa but at the Coast only about 32 square feet are allowed to each plant giving about 1300 plants per acre."

"In Kenya about 70 leaves are removed at the first cutting whilst subsequently two cuttings of about 25 leaves each are taken annually. Each plant should thus yield about 250 to 300 leaves during its life of 7 to 8 years. In Mexico the Henequen plant yields only about 25 leaves a year, but cutting can generally be continued for 10 to 15 years and occasionally longer."

"The Sisal leaves produced in East Africa weigh on the average about 2 lb. each and yield about three to four per cent of dry fibre or about 60 to 80 lb. of fibre per 1000 leaves. ****** ********** From the figures given it will be seen that in East Africa the annual yield of fibre should amount to about one to one-and-half tons per acre."

6. Finally from small beginnings various parts of the world produce 450,000 tons of fibre a year and the world is said to need 550,000 tons a year. Our proposal is to produce 1600 tons a year for 5 years or just decimal three per cent of world need, India consuming about 1%, producing nil, its previous attempts having been false dawns. The poser is, can we not produce, at least the 1% we need?

---

Prof. Hartley

GOVERNMENT OF HIS HIGHNESS THE MAHARAJA OF MYSORE.

No. AF 2897

General and Revenue Secretariat,

*Dated, Bangalore* 10 October *194* 9.

FROM

XXXX
*The Chief Secretary to the Government of His Highness the Maharaja of Mysore.*
General Department.

To

The Director of Agriculture in Mysore,
Bangalore.

SIR,

Development of Sisal Fibre Industry.

I am directed to forward herewith a copy of letter dated 24th August 1949 received from Major C.B. Oakley, V.D., of Oaklipuram, Bangalore City on the above subject, ~~on the above subject,~~ and to state that Government are interested in the development of the sisal fibre industry in the State. I am therefore to request you to be so good as to state investigate what localities are fit for sisal cultivation and how many acres may be found at the various places.

A detailed report may kindly be sent within one month after consulting the Revenue Commissioner in the matter.

Yours faithfully,

C. Narayanaswamy
for Secretary to Government,
General Department.

Agu/4.

Copy to Development Secretary

for personal Secy.

Dev. Secy

GENERAL & REVENUE SECRETARIAT
12 OCT 1949
INDUSTRIES & COMMERCE BRANCH

SECY. DEV DEPTT
16 OCT. 1949
GOVT. OF MYSORE

D.4994-97
27-12-49

To
The Dy C
Bangalore (Urban
(Rural)
"
Hassan Dt.
Mysore "

Sir,

OAKley Duncan Ltd
Bangalore. have
a desire to establish
a Lime Flour Industry in
the State
In this connection,
they propose to select
a suitable site in your
Dt. I am directed
to request that
necessary facilities may
be allowed to them in

A draft is submitted
as directed by the
Govt.
Sd/-
17/11/49

Sd/-
27/12/49

Issued letter No.
D 4994-7 d 27-12-49.

SECY. DEV. DEPTT
16 NOV
GOVT. OF MYSORE

this behalf.

Yours faithfully

22.12

for Secy. to Govt

Sd

D. 4998
24.12.42

Copy to Personal Manager

OAKley, Duncan & Co Ltd

Bangalore

GOVERNMENT OF HIS HIGHNESS THE MAHARAJA OF MYSORE.

No. D.4994-97

General and Revenue Secretariat,

*Dated Bangalore,* 27th December, *19* 49.

FROM

*The Secretary to the Government of*
*His Highness the Maharaja of Mysore.*
Development Department.

To The Deputy Commissioners of
Bangalore District (Urban) and (Rural)

-do- Hassan District.
-do- Mysore District.

SIR,

Messrs. Oakley, Duncan and Co., Ltd., Bangalore, have a desire to establish a Sisal Fibre Industry in the State.

In this connection, they propose to select a suitable site in your District. I am directed to request that necessary facilities may be allowed to them in this behalf.

Yours faithfully,
Sd/- B.T.Kempanna,
Secretary to Government,
Development Department.

Memo No. D.4998 dt 27-12-49

Copy forwarded to the Manager, M/s. Oakley, Duncan & Co., Ltd., Bangalore.

By Order,

27/12/49

For Secretary to Government,
Development Department.

5282

OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY COMMISSIONER
BANGALORE DISTRICT(RURAL).

No.M2.PR.196- /49-50. Dated Bangalore the 9th Jany.1950.

AT7

4570

3

To

SECY. DEV. DEPTT. 11. JAN. 6 GOVT. OF MYSORE

The Secretary to Govt.
Development Department
Bangalore.

13/1

Sub: Establishment of a Sisal Fibre Industry in the State.

...

Adverting to your letter No.D.4994-97 dated 27.12.49 I have the honour to requesting you kindly to send the application of Messrs Oakley Duncan and Co.,Ltd., Bangalore stated to desire to establish the above Industry for taking further needful action.

Yours faithfully,

FOR DEPUTY COMMISSIONER
BANGALORE DISTRICT(RURAL).

13/1

13/1

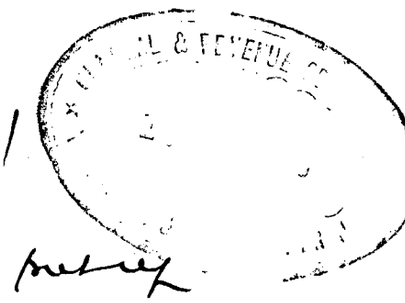
13/1 VKC).

541
24/1

The I. & C. Branch may be asked to put up the Connected papers referred to above.

6/12/1 I & C Br) 16.1

H.S.R.



The papers are submitted as required may kindly be taken by A1 & Br for further action as the question is already dealt with

Hoof Secy
A1 & Br)

Hkz 7/1/50.

6/2/50.

Jkz 7/2/50.

Papers returned 8/2

GOVERNMENT OF MYSORE.

No. D·S756

General and Revenue Secretariat,

*Dated Bangalore, 28th November.....1950.*

FROM

*The Secretary to the Government of Mysore,*
Development Department, Bangalore.

To

The Director of Industries and Commerce
in Mysore, Bangalore.

SIR,

Subject:- Sisal Fibre Industry.

---

With reference to the correspondence ending with your W.C.Note No. 55/IC-51 dated 25-10-1950 on the above subject, I am directed to state that on further consideration, Government have decided to drop the above proposals for the present.

Yours faithfully,

Sd/- R.J.REGO,

Secretary to Government,
Development Department.

Memo No. D·S757-58 / Dev. d-28·11·58

Copy of the above is forwarded with compliments to--

1) The Revenue Commissioner in Mysore; and

2) The Director of Agriculture, Bangalore,

for information.

28/11

Secretary to Government,
Development Department.

28/11

Copy to A & F. Branch.

Appendix F G—1]

SUBJECT Sisal Fibre Industry

*Diary No. of letter replied to* .....

General and Revenue Secretariat

( )

*the* 19 .

Date of issue.....

Signed by.....

List of enclosures.....

Copied by.....

Examined by.....

**Section**

**File No.**

**Serial No.**

No. D.5756 / dt. 28.11.50

To The Dir & Inte.

Sir, With reference to the correspondence ending with Your No note No. 55/50-I dated 26.X.50 on the above subject, I am directed to state that on a further consideration, Govt have ~~directed that the proposal about~~ decided to drop ~~may be dropped~~ for the present.

Yours &c

19/11/51

memo No. D.5757-58 dt. 28.11.50 + Deed

Copy to Rev Comm

WD 06818—GPB—25,000—9-7-49

19/11/51

15/11 for Deputy

4 Dir of Agri

Copy to A & A